

STARS AND STRIPES®

Heart fills in for Gl's legs on ski slope

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The 'Rock' of 1-4 suffers second near-fatal injury

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Black history deserves more than a month, some say

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Princeton scholar Neil Irwin Painter

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2005

"... I'll be trying not to do something stupid to get myself killed."

New kids on the block

As they find their place in combat-hardened units in Iraq, troop replacements learn there's no substitute for experience

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PATRIOTS QB TOM BRADY


Are the Patriots and Eagles just getting started?

Teams' makeup suggests this might not be last Super Bowl for either

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EAGLES QB DONOVAN MCNABB

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTINOS/Stars and Stripes



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Madness in motion

Versatile Westbrook carries Eagles' offense; Johnson's schemes confuse opponents

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States

Robert Blake trial: The prosecution in Robert Blake's murder trial in Los Angeles re-enacted the shooting of the actor's wife to show jurors where the bullets came from and in what position she was seated when they were fired. Deputy District Attorney Shelli Samuels took on the role of Blake's slain wife Friday, sitting in a chair while Rod Englert, a crime reconstructionist, demonstrated how Bonnie Lee Bakley was struck by two bullets.

On cross-examination, defense attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach challenged the accuracy of Englert's calculations, pressing him on whether he took into consideration that Bakley's body in the car may have been moved by someone who tried to help her.

Gay marriage in N.Y.: A judge struck down a New York law banning same-sex marriage, saying it violates the state and U.S. constitutions to deny a gay couple a marriage license solely because the two are of the same sex.

Friday's ruling, the first of its kind in New York, would clear the way for gay couples to wed if it survives on appeal.

Fetus death conviction: A Dallas man found guilty in the gang-related shooting death of a pregnant woman became the first Texas convicted under the state's law protecting the unborn.

Emmanuel Rogers, 21, was convicted of capital murder Friday in the December 2003 slaying of Virginia Ramirez and her 9-week-old fetus. The new law, implemented three months before the shooting, expands the definition of an individual to include a fertilized egg.

DNC chairman race: Activists Simon Rosenberg and Donnie Fowler abandoned their bids for Democratic National Committee chairman on Friday and backed front-runner Howard Dean, moving the former presidential candidate closer to capturing the party title. Rosenberg's departure from the race leaves a field of two — Dean and former Indiana Rep. Tim Roemer. About 430 voting members of the party's national committee will choose a successor to outgoing DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe on Feb. 12.

Human smuggling trial: A judge in the Houston trial of a New York man accused of driving and abandoning a hot, airless tractor-trailer in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt agreed Friday to allow two juries in the case.

U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore, in granting the request by defense attorneys for Tyrone Williams, ruled that his trial would begin Monday, but prosecutors planned to appeal her decision, possibly prompting another delay in the case.

Under Gilmore's ruling, one jury would decide whether Williams is guilty or innocent of any of the 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants he faces. If Williams were found guilty of any charges that carry a possible death sentence, another jury would be chosen for that decision.

Semester-at-Sea incident: A ship filled with hundreds of college students that was damaged last week in the Philippines will remain in Honolulu Harbor for repairs and inspections until at least Sunday, Jim Lawrence, a spokesman for the ship's technical managers, said Friday.

An assessment by marine technicians showed the Explorer did not suffer structural damage and remains completely seaworthy, said Semester at Sea, the academic program that leases the ship, on its Web site. But the ship's electrical systems still need repairs and some replacement parts have yet to arrive, Lawrence said.

A 50-foot wave on Jan. 26 injured two crew members, broke windows and damaged the vessel's controls.



Pope health watch: Chief of Vatican security Vatican Camillo Cini, right, looks on as another security officer talks on his phone Friday on a balcony of the 10th floor of Rome's Policlinic Agostino Gemelli hospital where Pope John Paul II is hospitalized. The pope was strong enough to turn the pages of written greetings Saturday and speak in a clear voice, according to an Italian bishop who visited his hospital room. Giant video screens were ordered to be set up in St. Peter's Square in a hopeful sign that the 84-year-old pontiff would be well enough on Sunday to say a few words to a public.

Ex-governor may run again: Former Arizona Gov. Fife Symington, who resigned in 1997 after a bank fraud conviction that was later overturned — and won a pardon in 2001 from President Clinton — said he's considering another run for governor.

The onetime real estate developer and Republican who reinvented himself as a pastry chef when he left office said he began thinking about a challenge after Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano's State of the State address.

Filipino lawsuit: A federal appeals court in San Francisco on Friday ruled against thousands of Filipinos seeking compensation for human rights abuses committed under former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, saying the money belongs to the Philippine government.

A U.S. appeals court here ruled that the 9,500 plaintiffs have no right to \$683 million in Marcos' assets that were transferred from a Swiss account to the Philippine government, because the Philippine Supreme Court has ordered that the funds be forwarded to the national treasury.

Washington governor's election: A judge allowed a court challenge to Democratic Gov. Christine Gregoire's exorbitantly close election to go forward Friday, but said even if Republicans win, he cannot order a new vote.

"The court doesn't have that authority," said Chelan County Superior Court Judge John E. Bridges, addressing a packed courtroom.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Dino Rossi and the state GOP challenged Gregoire's election, saying the contest was tainted by errors and illegal votes.

Rossi had won the original count by 261 votes and came out about 42 votes in a machine recount. But to his dismay, the third and final count put Gregoire ahead by a mere 129 votes.

World

North Korea nuke talks: The presidents of the United States and South Korea agreed during a phone call Saturday to push for an early resumption of six-nation talks to end North Korea's nuclear weapons programs.

The communist North remained defiant, describing President Bush's remarks for the spread of freedom in his Jan. 20 inaugural speech as a U.S. scheme to rule the world.

Gitmo detainee release: The U.S. military has ordered three detainees at the U.S. prison camp in Guantanamo Bay to be freed and 25 others to remain as secret hearings were held into the cases of more terror suspects.

Hearings were held Friday for two detainees before the Administrative Review Boards, which can free prisoners if they determine they no longer pose a threat or hold significant intelligence value.

Madrid bombings investigation: A judge sent two Moroccan brothers to jail Saturday on provisions charges of collaborating with a terrorist group in connection with the deadly Madrid train bombings last year, but ordered their parents freed.

The brothers, Ibrahim and Mohamed Mousattat, are known to have had regular contacts with their maternal uncle Youssef Belhadj, 28, who authorities believe is an al-Qaida figure mentioned in a video claiming responsibility for the attacks.

Tsunami visit: President Bush on Friday announced he is sending a second delegation to visit the Indian Ocean region ravaged by tsunamis that includes his father and Bill Clinton.

Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Clinton will visit tsunami-affected countries Feb. 19-21.

The two men are to stop in the hardest-hit nations, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Palestinian militant arrests: Palestinian security forces on Saturday briefly arrested three leaders of a small militant faction responsible for an attack that wounded two Israeli soldiers amid Israeli criticism they were not taking strong enough action to end violence.

The arrests of three officials from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine marked the first such detentions since new Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas was elected last month.

The three men were released after five hours, party officials said.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press



Clinton

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, at least 1,445 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,105 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,307 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 996 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Thursday by a roadside bomb while on patrol south of Mosul, Iraq.

■ A soldier was killed Friday by an explosive near Beiji, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. 1st Class Sean M. Cooley, 35, Ocean Springs, Miss., killed by an explosive Thursday in Iraq's northern Babil province, assigned to the 150th Engineer Battalion, 150th Armor Brigade, Lucedale, Miss.

■ Army Sgt. Stephen R. Sherman, 27, Neptune, N.J., died Thursday in Mosul, Iraq, after an explosive detonated near his vehicle, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Sean P. Maher, 19, Graylake, Ill., killed Wednesday in Iraq's Anbar province, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

■ Army Spc. Robert T. Hendrickson, 24, Broken Bow, Okla., died Tuesday in Basra, Iraq, after his vehicle overturned, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Sgt. 1st Class Mark O. Brown, 44, La Grande, Ore., died Monday of noncombat injuries at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 116th Armor Cavalry Regiment, 116th Cavalry Combat Team, LaGrande, Ore.



Left: An Iraqi soldier weeps at the scene of a roadside bomb Saturday, which exploded beside an Iraqi patrol killing four Iraqi National Guardsmen in Basra. **Right:** Farid Ayar, spokesman for the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, speaks at a press conference Saturday in Baghdad. **Early figures released from 10 mostly Shiite provinces showed the Shiite ticket endorsed by the Shiite clergy with about two-thirds of the votes. The ticket of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, was trailing at about 18 percent.**



AP photos

21 Iraqis, 2 GIs killed in attacks

Shiite Alliance maintains lead; Some Sunnis want government role

BY JASON KEYSER

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents launched fresh attacks with bombs and bullets, killing 21 Iraqis and two U.S. soldiers, as the Shiite-led alliance that has rolled up a big lead in Iraq's elections said it wants to name the prime minister post in the upcoming government.

The demands from the United Iraqi Alliance could spell trouble for Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite with U.S. backing whose ticket is running second. Allawi had been seen as a possible compromise candidate if the Shites and their allies don't win two-thirds of the 275 National Assembly seats.

"The Alliance would like to get either the position of the president or the prime minister and it prefers that it be that of the prime minister," said Redha Taqi, a top official of one of the coalition factions.

Partial results have shown the Alliance, which has links to Iran and is endorsed by powerful cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, with two-thirds of the 3.3 million votes counted so far in the race for the National Assembly. The list headed by the U.S.-backed Allawi



Allawi

had about 579,700 votes, or 18 percent.

The returns, released Friday, are only a partial count from 10 southern provinces in Iraq's Shiite heartland. But if the Alliance amasses a large vote count in the south, Allawi will have a tough time making up the difference.

Results from much of Baghdad, the Sunni Arab provinces of north-central Iraq and the Kurdish provinces in the north have yet to emerge.

The Iraqi election commission released no new election returns Saturday, but predicted it would announce final vote totals by Thursday.

Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani has announced his candidacy for the largely ceremonial presidency. The Kurds are expected to win a sizable bloc of assembly seats and could form an alliance with the Shites. Both groups suffered under Saddam Hussein.

A collection of Sunni Arab parties that refused to participate in the election said Saturday they want to participate in the drafting of a permanent constitution — part of an effort led by Sunni elder statesman Adnan Pachachi to ensure the community is included in the key next step after the vote.

"The representatives of these political bodies that did not participate in the elections have decided in principle to take part in the writing of the permanent constitution in a suitable way," a statement from the group said.

The groups were mainly small movements and it's not clear how representative they are. In the latest violence, four Iraqi National

Guardsmen died in a roadside bombing early Saturday in Basra, Iraq's second largest city, while gunmen overran a police station in the northern city of Mosul, killing five officers, police officials said.

Gunsman assassinated a member of the Baghdad city council, Abbas Hasan Waheed, and a member of Iraq's intelligence service in two separate drive-by shootings.

Two Iraqi troops died from a blast that hit a patrol in the central city of Samarra, and three Iraqi National Guard soldiers were also killed in clashes west of Mosul, in the city of Tal Afar, on Friday night, hospital officials said.

The two American soldiers from Task Force Danger were killed in a roadside bombing Friday night near Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said Saturday. The military had said a second roadside blast in the same area killed two more American soldiers, but later said that report was wrong.

West of the capital, a U.S. convoy in the insurgent stronghold of Ramadi was rocked by a roadside bomb that killed two Iraqi bystanders, a hospital official said. It wasn't clear if there were any American casualties.

The brother of the police chief of Mosul and the surrounding Nineveh province was kidnapped Saturday, police officials said.

The kidnapping came three days after the chief, Gen. Mohammed Ahmed al-Jubouri, had threatened to destroy rebel sanctuaries if insurgents did not surrender their weapons within two weeks.

Militant Web posting claims 7 Iraqi Guardsmen killed

The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An Iraqi militant group claimed in a Web site posting Saturday it had killed seven members of the Iraqi National Guard, and video footage posted with the claim appeared to show seven people being shot repeatedly in their heads and upper bodies.

In the statement posted on its Web site, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army claimed it killed the seven "apostates" after they were cap-

tured in the Baghdad suburb of Abu Ghraib.

Insurgents ambushed a police convoy Thursday in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad, killing one policeman and wounding five.

Officials said at the time that about 50 policemen were in the convoy and that a number of them were missing after the ambush.

The convoy was traveling to Diwaniyah south of Baghdad.

The Ansar al-Sunnah Army has claimed responsibility for several attacks and kidnappings. But it was not possible to determine if the latest claim was authentic.

The Web site carried a video showing a total of seven men, in two separate groups, identifying themselves as members of the Iraqi military.

Another poor-quality video clip followed, appearing to show seven people, blindfolded and sitting and lying on the ground, and then being shot repeatedly.

Two men, their faces digitally

blurred, appeared to carry out the killings.

Some of the victims were wearing what looked like military-style T-shirts, and some wore light civilian-style jackets.

In the video, one of the men later shot said, "I believe mujahideen attacked us and I threw away my weapon and tried to run away."

The Ansar al-Sunnah Army, one of the most active insurgent groups in Iraq, has previously claimed responsibility for numerous kidnappings and attacks.

Smile and say 'Spiderhole'



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Spec. Shane Krebs of Company B, 1st Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, sits in the cupola of his Humvee under the watchful eye of "Smiley" Hussein at Camp Justice on Saturday in northern Baghdad. The mural was originally of another Hussein — former President Saddam Hussein — and after his fall some unknown soldiers added the smiley face over Saddam's. The nearby entrance to the base is now known as the Smiley Gate.

Former Abu Ghraib guard gets six months for abuse

By T.A. BADGER

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Sgt. Javal Davis doesn't have to serve much prison time for abusing detainees at Abu Ghraib in late 2003, but once his incarceration is over, so is his prized career as a soldier.

A nine-man Army jury on Friday sentenced Davis to six months in a military prison, reduction in rank to private and a bad-conduct discharge.

The jurors deliberated more than five hours to arrive at their punishment for Davis, a former Abu Ghraib guard who admitted stepping on the hands and feet of handcuffed detainees and falling with his full weight on top of them.

After the verdict was read, Davis' mother, Michelle Carpenter, sobbed uncontrollably in the courtroom. Davis gave his father, Jonathan, a long hug while a tear rolled down Davis' face. "All of you who aren't my family can leave now," Davis snapped at spectators after Col. James Poll, the judge, and the jury left the courtroom.

Davis has already been credited with a month served, and his prison term could be reduced another three weeks for good conduct behind bars, said Capt. Chuck Neill, a spokesman for prosecutors.

The sentence is among the lightest for any soldier convicted in the Abu Ghraib scandal, which ignited last spring when graphic photographs were made public. Last month Pvt. Charles Graner, called the abuse ringleader, received 10 years in prison.

Defense lawyer Paul Bergerin had urged the jury to punish Davis lightly for his crimes, and afterward he blamed the judge for making rulings that tilted the tables against his client.

"We knew ultimately that it was a military court, and that it's almost impossible to receive justice in a military tribunal," he said.

Bergerin said military intelligence officers at Abu Ghraib should also face charges for their alleged role in directing the abuse by prison guards as a way to soften up detainees for interrogation.



Sgt. Javal S. Davis, left, and attorney Paul Bergerin arrive at the courthouse for Davis' sentencing hearing in Fort Hood, Texas, on Friday. Davis pleaded guilty to battery and other charges in connection with the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal.

"They all had their hand in this pie and should have been sitting in the same seat that Javal Davis was sitting in," Bergerin said. "But I don't believe we'll ever see them. They've been too insulated."

Davis, a 27-year-old reservist from Roselle, N.J., faced up to 6½ years in prison for battery, dereliction of duty and lying to Army investigators. A deal with prosecutors, however, had capped his sentence at 18 months.

In addition to his own acts, Davis said he saw detainees being physically mistreated and sexually humiliated by other guards, but that he failed to help them or report the abuse, as required under military law.

He also admitted lying to an Army investigator by denying his misdeeds at the Baghdad prison on Nov. 8, 2003.

Davis described harsh conditions for the Abu Ghraib guards that created high levels of stress. He said they had to sleep in filthy jail cells and eat bad food while working long hours trying to control vast numbers of hostile prisoners.

"Abu Ghraib was like hell on earth," he said on the witness stand Thursday.

Big shoes to fill

Troop replacements joining units in Iraq find there's a lot to learn

By JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

RAMADI, Iraq — You can tell them apart by their crisp new uniforms, untouched by wrinkles or desert sand, and by the way they sit quietly to the side while other soldiers trade war stories and tales of friends wounded or killed.

They are the replacements: soldiers brought in to supplement the ranks as U.S. units in Iraq lose troops in battle, to illness or for administrative reasons.

In soldier parlance, they are "turtles" — a Vietnam-era nickname derived from their supposedly slow arrival in theater — or "FNGs," a slightly more colorful reference to their "[explicit] New Guy" status.

The replacement system is a practice as old as combat, and as the U.S. mission in Iraq begins its third full year amid a continuing insurgency, it is a more common occurrence for units throughout the country.

Second Lt. John Sommervold, a 24-year-old from Rapid City, S.D., arrived in Iraq early on the morning of Feb. 2. Until then, he had been with the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division's rear detachment in Fort Carson, Colo.

The 2nd Brigade, which deployed 3,500 soldiers from South Korea to Iraq last fall, will head to Carson when its year tour in Iraq is over. Because of that, much of the brigade's administrative work takes place in Colorado; it is also where their replacements are selected.

Sommervold was fresh out of school, originally bound for a platoon command slot with the 4th Infantry Division. Instead, he was assigned as a replacement public affairs officer with 2nd Brigade in Iraq. When he arrived at Camp Ramadi, he was shifted again to the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

Over the coming weeks, he will try to integrate into his new unit.

"My mind tells me that I'll be trying not to do something stupid to get myself killed," Sommervold said of his first weeks in country.

You listen to the other officers and (noncommissioned officers) and get their advice and some of the lessons they've learned."

He won't have the benefit of the five months of combat experience the rest of the battalion has had in one of Iraq's more dangerous assignments.

"It's definitely harder coming in this way," he said.

Personnel officials with the 2nd Brigade have worked for months to prepare their replacement packages, the first of which they received in late January. Since their deployment began in September, the brigade has suffered at least 40 deaths and many more injuries.

"We know that there are always going to be losses, so we were already prepping for replacements" within the first 90 days of the brigade's arrival in Iraq, said Sgt. 1st Class Hugh Bent, of the personnel staff.

"The losses have varied; it's medics, mechanics, supply guys. It has to tailor the people coming in base off that."

The replacement system is no longer a one-to-one proposition. With the shortage of ground combat troops and the different tactics of a guerrilla campaign, every military occupation specialty is in demand.

"Under normal circumstances, previous to the war on terror, it was one-to-one," said Maj. Tom Huse. "Here that isn't the case because MOS doesn't matter. Every-

one's an infantryman first, so everyone is subject to becoming a casualty."

For 2nd Brigade, the replacements are trained at Fort Carson and wait there before being selected for duty in Iraq. During the wait, they go through a 30-day course on weapons, rules of engagement and cultural awareness, said Sgt. 1st Class Yvette Morrison, who traveled to Kuwait last month to receive and escort the brigade's first group of replacements.

Other units in the Army put similar courses into place. The Germany-based 1st Armored Division had a nine-day course called Individual Replacement Training.

The goal, Morrison said, is to make sure soldiers are "combat capable" before they are sent to their new units. If a combatant commander feels the soldier isn't ready when he arrives, the soldier will not be sent into combat, she said.

The biggest lesson: "Stay alert, stay alive," Morrison said.

Much of the time is spent on rumor control and trying to reassure the new soldiers they may be welcomed into their new unit. Some have even met the soldiers they are replacing while the wounded soldiers convalesce at Fort Carson.

Still, some of the replacements worry about fitting in when they arrive.

"I know it's going to be hard. How do you just step into some guy's boots who was under fire with these guys and had been here since the beginning?" asked one of the 28 replacements who arrived at the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry in downtown Ramadi last week.

The 503rd has taken the heaviest losses in the brigade; their area of operations puts them in almost daily urban combat with insurgents in the city.

"These guys have gone through hell together already. I don't want to be the new guy who everyone teases. I know I'm going to have to prove myself, and I hope I can do it."

E-mail Joseph Giordono at: giordonoj@jpspress.com

Bush to see \$49.3B for '05 defense budget

By LIZ SIDOTI

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush will ask Congress for \$49.3 billion for the Pentagon for next year, 4.8 percent more than this year's spending, as the administration seeks to beef up and reshape the Army and Marine Corps for fighting terrorism.

The request will not include money for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Congress already has appropriated \$25 billion for those wars this year, and the White House is planning to request another \$80 billion soon.

The president plans to roll out his military spending proposal Monday as part of a roughly \$2.5 trillion federal budget. But documents obtained by The Associated Press on Friday show that he will request \$19.2 billion more for the Defense Department than its \$400.1 billion budget this year.

The proposal will include restructuring and expanding the Army and adding combat and support units for the Marine Corps. It reflects Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's efforts to transform the Cold War-style military into one that's more rapidly deployable to fight terrorist groups.

"The plan calls for special operations forces, which the documents described as 'critical to the fight against terrorism,' to add 1,200 troops. The forces would get \$50 million to keep people from leaving the services.

The president also wants Congress to let him spend \$750 million as he chooses to help Iraq, Afghanistan and U.S. allies opposing terrorism bolster their military and security forces. In the past, lawmakers have been reluctant to give Bush unfettered control of such funds but have generally complied.

On Thursday, Missouri Rep. Ike Skelton — ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee

— said in a statement that he worried that the president's budget request, which he anticipated would be billions less than the Pentagon had predicted needing, "may weaken our efforts" in Iraq and Afghanistan "while undermining our ability to prepare for future conflicts."

Overall, the president's proposal calls for the Navy, Marines and Air Force to all receive extra funds next year, but the Army's budget would take a \$300 million reduction to \$100 billion even though it's bearing the brunt of the costs and fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, the \$80 billion Bush plans to request in the coming days for Iraq and Afghanistan is expected to be tilted heavily toward the Army.

Bush plans to propose \$1.6 billion to fight chemical and biological threats next year and \$9.9 billion over the next five years. And, he would allocate \$9.5 billion for homeland security activities next year and \$147.8 billion for training, maintenance and other "readiness" programs.

The president, according to the documents, will seek \$8.8 billion for its missile defense program, compared with \$9.9 billion this year. The documents also showed that he would ask for \$695.7 million for the Chinook helicopter for next year, compared with \$689.8 million for this year. And, the B-2 stealth bomber would get \$344.3 million, down from \$365 million this year.

More than half the total defense increase — \$10.8 billion — would be for training, maintenance and other costs associated with keeping the military ready for action. Most of the rest would go for military salaries and construction of bases and housing.

The proposal calls for increasing military base salaries by 3.1 percent and civilian salaries by 2.3 percent. It also calls for giving troops more money for housing and giving reservists better health care coverage and additional education benefits.

Alan Fram of The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey Adams, right, of Baton Rouge, La., gets guidance from instructor Mark Fitzpatrick as he learns to ski with outriggers Friday in Windham, N.Y. Adams lost his right leg in Iraq.

Wounded warriors get back on slopes

By MICHAEL HILL

The Associated Press

WINDHAM, N.Y. — Sgt. Andrew Butterworth was on his first time since losing a leg in Iraq. And almost just as quickly, he was down.

"You still want to go?" his instructor asked, helping the 25-year-old National Guardsman from Durham, N.C., out of the snow after he lost his balance.

"You bet!" Butterworth replied, rejoicing one other soldiers making their way down the beginners' hill Friday at Windham Mountain in the Catskills.

The men, most of whom lost legs in Iraq or Afghanistan, are getting a three-day free pass to ski and stay in the Catskills under a program that's part rehab, part "thank you" and part rigorous R&R.

"We don't quit," said 1st Lt. Jeffrey Adams, who lost his left leg. "If we quit, we'd be in the hospital crying, and that's kind of useless."

The soldiers came up from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, many of them healing from grenade attacks or roadside bomb explosions. A local chapter of Disabled Sports USA, the Adaptive Sports Foundation, helped raise \$16,000 to cover the soldiers' flight, food and lodging.

Most of the men are in their 20s. Some had skied before their injuries. Others, like Baton Rouge, La. native Adams, hit the slopes for the first time.

"A one-legged guy from Louisiana trying to ski," he said. "It's going to be fun."

Adams, 25, lost his left leg about eight inches below the hip in November from a roadside improvised explosive device in Baghdad.

Butterworth lost his right leg above the knee in November when a rocket-propelled grenade hit a gap in the armor of his Bradley near Kirkuk. "Kind of a lucky shot," he said.

Both men were fitted for one boot, one ski and two outriggers, which look like crutches with small skis at the bottom. Disabled skiers use them for balance and braking.

Most of the soldiers have been wounded within the past year, which adds to the challenge of skiing, said ASF executive director Cherrise Young.

"You're also going to deal with more of the emotional issues with snow ... depression, the 'Why me?' scenario. 'I can't do what I used to do,' that kind of stuff," Young said. "Really, what our program does is show them that they can still do it."

Pentagon looking into operation of military-sponsored Web sites

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's chief investigator is looking into the military's practice of paying journalists to write articles and commentary for a Web site aimed at influencing public opinion in the Balkans.

At the request of Larry Di Rita, chief spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the Pentagon's inspector general, Joseph Schmitz, is reviewing that case and also looking more broadly at Pentagon activities that might involve inappropriate payments to journalists.

Di Rita said Friday that he had

no reason to believe there have been any inappropriate activities but wanted a comprehensive review to "help ensure our processes are sufficiently sensitive to this matter." He stressed that the Web projects are done in close coordination with the State Department.

The Balkans Web site, called Southeast European Times, as well as a second aimed at audiences in north Africa, have a immediately obvious connection to the U.S. government but contain a linked disclaimer that says they are "sponsored by the U.S. European Command."

The second site, called Maghreb and aimed at the Maghreb region that encompasses

Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, still is in development and has not reached the stage of having paid correspondents, said Air Force Lt. Col. Derek Kaufman, a European Command spokesman.

Both sites carry news stories compiled from The Associated Press, Reuters and other news organizations. The Pentagon's role in these Web sites was first reported by CNN on Thursday.

The Web sites are examples of what the military calls "information operations," or programs designed to influence public opinion by countering what the Pentagon considers to be misinformation or lies that circulate in the international news media.

Study: CIA should keep control of its paramilitary forces

By ANN SCOTT TYSON

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A preliminary study contracted by the Pentagon has concluded that the Defense Department should not take charge of the CIA's paramilitary functions, senior defense officials said Friday.

The study was conducted in response to a request from President Bush that the Pentagon, the CIA and other agencies consider how to act on a recommendation by

the Sept. 11 commission that lead responsibility for covert and clandestine paramilitary operations belong from the CIA to the Defense Department. The commission's report said the CIA lacked a robust paramilitary operation and relied too heavily on proxies. The United States could not afford to build two paramilitary arms, it said, and suggested they be consolidated under the military's Tampa, Fla.-based Special Operations Command.

"Our study does not intend to take over

any mission from the CIA," Thomas O'Connell, assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict, said at a conference here Friday. The Pentagon and the CIA are drafting formal proposals to submit to the White House later this month. The study's conclusion, however, reflects an emerging consensus among current and former defense, military and intelligence officials that it is more logical for the CIA to retain its relatively modest paramilitary force.

"If you take the very small paramilitary capabilities away from the CIA, in my view, it would impair the ability to conduct foreign intelligence activities which they are required by law to do," said one senior defense official familiar with the study. Moreover, "we don't have the legal authorities to be doing what the CIA does, so getting all those assets doesn't make any sense," he said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the issue is still unsettled.

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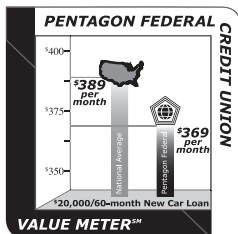
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Return to combat proves dangerous

1-4 Cav NCO suffers his second near-fatal injury while in Iraq

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — You can't break "the Rock."

That's what the men of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment say about their senior enlisted leader, 1st Sgt. Brent Jurgensen.

The 42-year-old from Clinton, Iowa, nicknamed "the Rock," is in critical condition at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C., mending from his second near-fatal injury in Iraq.

"If there's anyone who's going to recover, it's him," said Staff Sgt. Frank San Nicolas, 34, of Inarajan, Guam, a 1-4 Cavalry trooper who himself returned from Iraq last month with an injury. "There's just no stopping in that man."

Jurgensen suffered an open head wound, a broken arm and badly injured legs Jan. 26 when insurgents in Ad Dululiyah fired two rocket-propelled grenades at his Humvee. The explosion killed his gunner, Sgt. William Kinzer, and injured two other soldiers riding with him.

Seven months earlier, Jurgensen had been shot in the face during an ambush on a 1-4 Cavalry supply convoy. He endured multiple surgeries on his upper jaw and the soft tissue of his mouth but kept a promise to his troops.

"I spoke to him more than once that he was so lucky, he shouldn't go back," said Staff Sgt. Donald Merritt, 39, of Fort Pierce, Fla., also wounded in Iraq. "He said there was one thing he was going to accomplish, and that was being the boys' home."

Jurgensen has served 14 years in the Army. After a Pentagon tour as branch manager for all the Army's 19D cavalry scouts he joined 1-4 Cavalry in 2002 and deployed with the unit to Iraq last February.

The soldiers who served with him said he is a quiet man with an unmatched work ethic.

"He's like a machine," said Sgt. Michael Pettit, 26, of Mesa, Ariz., a 1-4 Cavalry trooper who was Jurgensen's driver and assistant for a year. "He runs nonstop. He's at work until 10 o'clock at night, and comes back at 4 o'clock."

His sergeants say Jurgensen runs his unit by the book and strikes fear into any trooper who breaks the rules. He instituted "night court," in which soldiers who com-



RAYMOND L. BAUM JR./Courtesy of the U.S. Army

The personal determination and the dedication to his soldiers makes 1st Sgt. Brent Jurgensen, the rock of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment.

mitted minor infractions had to come before his desk with their platoon sergeants and face his wrath.

"The fear of 'night court' kept a lot of soldiers straight," Merritt said.

But, they said, he's quick to give second chances and will take on anyone to make sure his soldiers are cared for. At camps MacKenzie and Wilson, the 1-4 Cavalry's two main bases in Iraq, he pushed hard for quality-of-life improvements, such as a movie theater and phone center.

Before leaving Germany last year, Jurgensen pledged to soldiers and their families that he would personally bring his men home from Iraq. He joined them on dozens of patrols before June 18, when a 1-4 Cavalry logistics convoy came under fire.

Instead of racing away, Jurgensen's men got out and fought back. As he lay prone in the firing position, the enemy bullet struck the butt of his rifle and hit him just below the nose. He was sent to Germany for painful surgeries that left his face scarred and forced him to wear dentures.

He returned to Iraq in October, and looked forward to bringing his squadron home in late February or early March.

"I was happy to have him back, because he was someone I knew would watch my back," said Sgt. Jeff Hummert, 27, a 1-4 Cavalry soldier from Pittsburgh.

Just after sunrise Jan. 26, Jurgensen led a five-vehicle convoy to assess the security needs at several polling sites for the upcoming elections.

Hummert, who was sitting behind Jurgensen in the trail Humvee, said the patrol had just finished its second stop and was driving through a narrow street.

"The first indication of trouble was a loud bang, and then a blinding white light," Hummert said.

Hummert learned two men had fired two



San Nicolas

had just finished its second stop and was driving through a narrow street.

"The first indication of trouble was a loud bang, and then a blinding white light," Hummert said.

Hummert learned two men had fired two



Special to Stars and Stripes

First Sgt. Brent Jurgensen plants a flag last November at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie, Iraq, at a memorial wall for 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment soldiers killed in action. Jurgensen was shot in the face and seriously wounded in an ambush in June 2004, but returned to duty four months later. Then Jan. 26, just a month before his unit returned Germany, he lost a leg and suffered serious head wounds in a grenade attack.

RPGs at the passenger side of the vehicle from point-blank range. One exploded inside the Humvee, leaving behind a scene too awful for Hummert to describe.

The driver, a medic, quickly bandaged Jurgensen's gaping head wounds and mangled left leg while Hummert, who suffered shrapnel wounds to the arm and leg, called for help to tow the disabled vehicle out of harm's way.

Within minutes, Hummert said, a helicopter landed nearby and whisked him and Jurgensen to a hospital. By the end of the day, they'd flown to Germany for treatment. Doctors put Jurgensen in a drug-induced coma and amputated his damaged left leg below the knee.

Stunned members of the squadron's rear detachment visited him in the hospital. Despite his coma, Merritt said, Jurgensen perked up when his men came in.

"When the soldiers began to talk, he'd open his eyes. He'd try to get up," Merritt

said.

With his wife, Karin, beside him, Jurgensen was flown to Walter Reed. Pettit said his condition has improved. He awoke from the coma a few days ago. Despite his head injuries, he doesn't appear to have brain damage.

His troops believe that, having survived one life-threatening wound, Jurgensen will bounce back from this one as well.

"I don't see it stopping him," Hummert said. "I see him getting a prosthetic limb, pushing himself, and getting back here to his soldiers."

Jurgensen has the prayers of his squadron to boost him, and strength his friends say is uncommon even by Army standards.

"He's the toughest man I've ever met," Merritt said.

Like a rock.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.strips.osd.mil.

Navy Europe names sailor of the year

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

SIGONELLA, Sicily — Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Anton, 29, was named Thursday as the Commander-Naval Forces Europe sailor of the year, an achievement that will have him competing against 25 other sailors in the next round of competition.

His said he believes his desire to "exceed what I've already achieved" earned him the distinction.



Anton

"It's about consistency and commitment, both to myself and the Navy," said the aviation systems warfare officer. "I come to work every day trying to do better than the day before."

In nominating Anton for the post, Senior Chief Petty Officer Mark Flores

said his leading petty officer "is hands down the top sailor."

"I nominated him for his leadership abilities and his ability to work for his people," Flores said. "It's all about his people for him. He puts his folks first. Their problems. I am his ... If you're going to strap a saddle on people and ride 'em, you better put them first. He does."

Anton now will compete against 25 other sailors for the title of sailor of the year Commander-U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.strips.osd.mil

Army orders more Humvees

FAIRFIELD, Ohio — The Army's top general said Friday that production of armored Humvees for soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan may be stepped up beyond the current accelerated rate.

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Army chief of staff, toured the O'Gara-Hess & Eisenhardt plant in this southwest Ohio city, where the Humvees are armored.

The plant was producing 450 vehicles a month in December, when the Army asked the company to accelerate production.

The Army has ordered 8,105 of the armored Humvees. Schoomaker declined to say how many of them will ultimately be needed.

From The Associated Press



Mohamad Hassoun, older brother of U.S. Marine Cpl. Wassel Ali Hassoun, speaks to the media July 8 at the Hassoun home in Utah.

AWOL Marine's brother claims anti-Muslim bias

By MARK THIESSEN

SALT LAKE CITY — Anti-Muslim bias prompted military officials to treat an AWOL Marine charged with desertion more harshly than others, the man's brother said in an interview with *The Associated Press*.

The pressure of the charge filed against Cpl. Wassel Ali Hassoun, coupled with an argument with his newlywed wife the day he was to return to his base, drove Hassoun to flee, said his brother, Mohamad.

Neither Mohamad Hassoun nor military officials know where to find the younger Hassoun, a Lebanese-born, naturalized American citizen. He failed to return to Camp Lejeune, N.C., on Jan. 5 — the second time the Marines have deemed him a deserter.

"Instead of them giving him medals and making him feel good about his service and what he was doing for his country, they gave him an Article 32," Hassoun said of the military court proceedings that are on hold against his brother until he is found.

"I think there is some kind of bias, yes," he said.

Mohamad Hassoun believes his brother's claim that he was

kidnapped in Iraq last summer and held against his will before being released. Hassoun said the military charges are built on hearsay.

He said thousands of deserters have gone AWOL, but haven't shown up on the Naval Criminal Investigative Services' most wanted list like his brother.

All five people currently being sought by the military and featured on the NCIS Web site are charged with desertion. Maj. Matt Morgan, a spokesman for the Camp Lejeune-based 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, denied that Hassoun was treated differently because of bias and said any action being taken against Hassoun is based on evidence, not religion.

Mohamad Hassoun declined to say whether he has spoken to his brother after the 25-year-old soldier failed to return to Camp Lejeune early last month after an authorized leave. He would only confirm that he spoke to Wassel Hassoun Dec. 29, when the Marine called from the Washington airport.

"He should come to defend himself and to face these charges," Mohamad Hassoun said. "Until the truth is known, no one should be jumping to conclusions."

DOD may seek to dismiss suit over policy on gays

Former servicemembers seek to rejoin military after being discharged under 'don't ask, don't tell' policy

By CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

The Department of Defense is expected Monday to ask for dismissal of a lawsuit filed by 12 former servicemembers seeking to rejoin the

military after being discharged under the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The former military members filed the suit in December in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, saying that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy is unconstitutional.

Derek Sparks, a former Navy petty officer first class, is one of the plaintiffs.

A veteran of military operations in the Middle East and Southwest Asia, Sparks was dismissed in 2002 after a superior said he saw Sparks engaging in sexual acts with two other male sailors.

"Here I had over 14 years of service, and then all of a sudden I was unfit because of this," said Sparks of Seattle. "I wasn't any different. I was the same person."

"The military was saying they had new information about me, but I was the same person, the same sailor. It was pretty terrible," he said.

The 11-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy has been challenged in court five times before and has always been upheld, said Sharon Alexander, an attorney for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network in Washington, D.C., and one of the attorneys for the gay plaintiffs in the Massachusetts suit.

The Massachusetts suit, however, is one of two challenging the policy in the wake of a 2003 Supreme Court ruling that the right of privacy in private, consensual adult relationships is a "full right" to be exercised "without the intervention of government."

A Pentagon spokesman said the Defense department does not plan to budge on the policy, which requires gay servicemembers to keep their lifestyle a secret while also forbidding their command from asking about it.

"It's in the best interest for the cohesion of the force," Army Lt. Col. Joseph Richard said. "We believed that then and we currently believe that now."

When asked later to clarify what he meant, Richard, in an e-mailed response, repeated the

original rationale behind the policy: "Living conditions especially in combat operations are often Spartan, primitive and characterized by forced intimacy with little or no privacy, thereby creating an environment that is cohesive-

sion-busting."

Alexander, the attorney, put it another way: "The presumption is that straight people can't deal with gay folks around them in the military."

Sparks is joined in the Massachusetts lawsuit by one former sailor, five former soldiers, four former airmen and one ex-Coast Guardswoman.

Among them is Stacy Vasquez, a former Army sergeant first class, who was discharged in August 2003.

Vasquez said that a spouse of one of her co-workers claimed she saw Vasquez kissing another woman at a nightclub. Vasquez said her commander asked her to write a statement saying she was a lesbian.

Vasquez, of Washington, D.C., said she wanted to stay in the Army until she retired. Now she wants to rejoin and demonstrate that, in her opinion, her fellow soldiers won't judge her on her lifestyle but on her job performance.

"I served 12 years with heterosexual people and it worked just fine," she said. "I don't think it would be a problem."

"I want the [gay troops] who are serving in military right now to be able to serve without having to worry that they won't have a career anymore when someone figures out they are gay," Vasquez said.

The defendants are Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, because it is his job to enforce "don't ask, don't tell" within the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines; Tom Ridge, the former secretary of Homeland Security, which oversees the Coast Guard; and the United States of America, because Congress passed the 1993 law on which "don't ask, don't tell" based.

The other lawsuit challenging the policy's constitutionality was filed in October by Log Cabin Republicans, a GOP gay-advocacy group, in U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Western Division. The Pentagon has asked that suit be dismissed because no plaintiffs were named in the suit — only the Log Cabin organization — and because previ-

ous rulings in that jurisdiction supported the policy.

The government has not yet responded to the Massachusetts suit.

Richard, the Pentagon spokesman, said that the military is simply upholding the law when it discharges servicemembers for acknowledging their homosexuality.

"No one is being dismissed out of the military," Richard said. "Our... policy is very clear. We don't hunt down anyone. If they declare their sexual preference, then we have no choice. That's a choice they make if they declare [their] sexual preference."

Sparks served aboard the USS Sacramento during Operation Desert Storm, when he won a Sailor- or of the Quarter award, and aboard the USS Bridge during Operation Enduring Freedom.

While aboard the USS Bridge, a master chief alleged that while spying through a peephole he saw Sparks and two other sailors committing homosexual acts. Sparks and the sailors repeatedly denied the allegations, but Sparks said he felt pressured by his command to admit his sexuality.

"A couple days [after the allegation], after I mullied it over in my mind, I got tired of lying and tired of hiding it," Sparks said. "So, eventually I wrote a statement of my sexuality."

He was given a general discharge in April 2002.

"Don't ask, don't tell" started out as a 1992 campaign promise by presidential candidate Bill Clinton, who wanted homosexuals to be able to serve in the military without having to hide their sexual preference. The Pentagon had previously barred homosexuals from serving in the military.

Before it passed, the law was molded into its current state.

"The [law] started out with good intentions," said Alexander, the gay plaintiffs' attorney. "But it left us in a terrible mess."

According to a study by the Urban Institute, based on the 2000 census, there are currently about 65,000 active-duty servicemembers and reservists who are gay, or about 2.8 percent of all military personnel.

Alexander said the law, which has caused more than 10,000 gays to leave the military, can only be changed by Congress or if a court finds it unconstitutional.

According to Richard, the Defense department believes that "don't ask, don't tell" is good for military readiness and discipline. "We have made a determination that there are no circumstances that would require us to review, and there is no effort currently underway to, revisit 'don't ask, don't tell,' Richard said.

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.ustrpsocd.mil

Fox to air live feeds of troops during Super Bowl

LANDSTUHL, Germany — If soldiers think they see a familiar face on their television while watching the Super Bowl on Sunday, they may be right.

Fox will air live feeds from overseas U.S. military installations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and Germany during the game. It plans to broadcast at least one spot from each country, according to the network.

To prepare for their few minutes of fame, staff members at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center organized a Super Bowl party complete with a buffet and Playstation tournament for patients and soldiers serving at the hospital. The hospital staff also recorded a promotional video with interviews from a physician and a nurse that is scheduled to air on Fox before the game begins.

From staff reports

Hooking up with a unique band of Marines

New member of President's Own gets a lesson in Corps values

BY MICHAEL E. RUANE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — He has been to Mr. Sneed's, across from the barracks, to get a regulation haircut.

He has been to Mr. Yi, next door, to get fitted for his crimson-and-blue uniforms.

He has learned how to salute: Right hand only. Elbow out. Fingertips to the back of the hat bill, with no palm or thumb showing.

By the way, Marine, it's a cover, not a hat.

And he has been warned against chewing gum in uniform.

Now it is showtime.

On Sunday recruit Joseph DeLuccio, 27, a carpenter's son from Vernon, N.J., was set to make his debut with the Marine Corps — not with a rifle, but with a black, short-barrel, smooth-bore instrument that he will carry throughout his career in uniform.

The oboe.

DeLuccio, who has been in his khaki and olive green service uniform just over a week, is the newest member of the Marine Band, known as the President's Own, which has serenaded every chief executive from John Adams to George W. Bush.

Bypassing boot camp

His trip into a Marine uniform bypassed one essential stop made by virtually all other Marines: the 13-week ordeal commonly known as boot camp. Making the Marine band does not require crawling through the mud, being yelled at by a drill instructor or learning hand-to-hand combat. Band members don't learn to fire a weapon because they never expect to use one.

The Marine Band's roughly 130 members are the only musicians in any military service, to be spared such training, according to Capt. John Barclay, executive assistant to the band's director, because they will never be called to combat.

The thinking is that the musicians are the bestly trained elite group, the highest Marines at what they do, and music should be their focus.

"The average Marine ... will spend 13 weeks becoming a Marine," Barclay said. "The members of the band spend their whole life preparing ... to come here."

The band, established by Congress in 1798 and made famous in the late 1800s by composer and conductor John Philip Sousa, is the oldest professional music organization in the country. It is made up of some of the finest musicians in the world.

Once musicians join the band,



THE WASHINGTON POST/LATWIP

Oboist Joseph DeLuccio, the most recent addition to the U.S. Marine Band, tries on his uniforms at the Marine Annex in Washington, D.C., as he is instructed in how to assemble and wear them.

they tend to stay, Master Gunner Sgt. James Dickey, the retiring musician DeLuccio is replacing, had been with the band almost 28 years.

Barclay said that, though their role in the Corps differs radically from that of the average leatherneck, band members quickly earn, and return, the respect of fellow Marines.

But the transition from the music conservatory to the Marines, to say nothing of the inner sanctums of the White House, can be abrupt, and the lifestyle change drastic.

"It's a very, very interesting process," Barclay said last week. "They come here and all of sudden they're wearing the uniform of the U.S. Marine Corps."

So while DeLuccio loves Bach and Mozart, and has been steeped in his profession for over a decade, he had to learn that his MOS (military occupational specialty) is 9811, for Marine Band musician; that he shouldn't go outside in uniform without his cover; and that if the concert begins at 1700, that means it's at 5 p.m.

A Marine mentor

To ease things, DeLuccio, who is quiet, well-spoken and passionate about his craft, was handed over to Gunnery Sgt. William Kanteres, 29, the band's assistant drum major.

Kanteres, of Manchester, N.H., is a kind of one-man recruit depot.

He is also a musician — a saxophonist — but he was a member

of one of the Marine division bands, underwent recruit training and deployed to Iraq with the division in 2003.

All new members of the Marine Band are turned over to him for indoctrination. "They really belong to him," Barclay said, "until he says that they're ready to go."

DeLuccio's audition last May 10 came after he spotted an advertisement in a well-known music newspaper. The job opening was for someone to play oboe and the similar, but larger, English horn.

DeLuccio had a bachelor's degree in music from Baldwin-Wallace College, near Cleveland; a master's degree in music from DePaul University in Chicago; and was at work on a doctorate in musical arts at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

But a pile of diplomas is no guarantee of work as a musician, a profession in which good, steady jobs are hard to come by.

The Marine Band is renowned and the job pays about \$1,850 a month — the standard rate for a staff sergeant — with a \$1,300 monthly housing allowance, adjusted to match the cost of living in Washington.

He submitted a résumé and was invited to a tryout.

The auditions are always tense. "You essentially get five to 10 minutes to prove yourself," he said. "If you're not feeling good that day, well, too bad. You just have to bring your game and do the best that you can. ... It's a very, very stressful thing to do."

Making the band

DeLuccio's audition at the Marine Barracks was a pressure-packed affair in which he competed against 44 other candidates.

"The standards are high," said Dickey, the retiring oboist, "and the scrutiny is everywhere."

DeLuccio was summoned to play for a five-person selection committee. He was issued a number, 33, and stood behind a screen so the members could not see him.

The committee wants to be influenced only by the candidate's music.

DeLuccio was asked to play a short but difficult portion of Mozart's "Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra in C Major," a piece from Maurice Ravel's "Le Tombeau de Couperin," a part from Beethoven's Third Symphony; and a selection from Anton Dvorak's Seventh Symphony.

He was the last of six finalists called back to play again after lunch. This time the screen was gone, there were 10 people on the selection committee, and the pressure was even higher.

DeLuccio played for about a half-hour, and at one point performed with one of the band's oboists. Afterward, DeLuccio waited with the others for the verdict in a warm-up room.

Finally, a band official entered and announced: "At this time, we'd like to offer the position to Joseph DeLuccio. Congratulations."

"Wow," DeLuccio thought. "All

this hard work has finally paid off."

Learning the ropes

On Jan. 4, he reported to the new Marine Annex, the band's headquarters.

There was no time to waste. This is the band's busy season. Dickey's retirement ceremony was last Friday. DeLuccio's first band rehearsal was four days later. His first concert, Sunday, is at the University of Maryland.

He got his service uniforms Jan. 24. He needed help learning how to properly iron the vertical creases in the front of his khaki shirt.

Monday morning, DeLuccio called at Yi's to get his three newly tailored band jackets. He then reported to the band's locker room, where Kanteres showed him, in rapid-fire fashion, how to assemble the uniforms and wear them.

The white belt had to rest above the two gold buttons at the back of the jacket. The gold Marine Corps collar pins had to align with the collar's white piping. And the loop at the end of the braided white shoulder cord hooked over a button at the top of the jacket.

Tuesday, DeLuccio rehearsed with the band for the first time.

This transition looked easier. On tap for the rehearsal was music by Sergei Prokofiev, Ottorino Respighi, Charles Ives and Samuel Barber.

"It was fun," DeLuccio said afterward. "It was nice to finally get to be doing what I came here to do."

IN THE WORLD

Afghan airplane wreckage found

Survivors unlikely, officials say; six Americans believed on board

BY EMILIO MORENATTI

The Associated Press

CHENARI, Afghanistan — NATO helicopter gunships found the wreckage of a missing Afghan airliner on a frigid mountain east of the capital Saturday, and officials said they didn't believe any of the 104 people aboard could have survived the crash.

Six Americans were believed to have been on board, the U.S. Embassy in Kabul said, doubling the number reported so far. Afghan police struggled through deep snow to within sight of the scattered debris, but reported no sign of life beyond scavenging animals and birds and were forced back by darkness and plummeting temperatures.

"So far we don't think there are any survivors," said Lutfulah Mashal, a spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Interior.

The Kam Air Boeing 737-200 vanished from radar screens on Thursday afternoon as it approached Kabul airport in a snowstorm, sparking a massive search operation for the 96 passengers

and eight crew, at least 24 of them foreigners. If all are confirmed dead, it would be this war-wracked nation's deadliest air disaster.

Officials said there was no indication that the scheduled flight, which was arriving from the western Afghan city of Herat, was hijacked or bombed.

Afghan Transport Minister Enayatullah Qasemi said the cause of the crash remained a mystery and said U.S. Department of Transportation experts as well as representative of the foreign victims would help investigate.

NATO said two of its Dutch Apache helicopters spotted the tail of the plane on Saturday afternoon, lying at an altitude of 11,000 feet on the side of Chaperi Mountain, 20 miles east of Kabul. Helicopters then dropped a Slovenian mountain rescue team to the scene, but Qasemi said no body reached the wreckage before nightfall.

Kam Air was the first private airline in post-Taliban Afghanistan and began flying in November 2003.



Turkish demonstrators chant anti-American slogans during a protest outside of the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, on Saturday, hours before the arrival of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Rice hopes Turkey trip heals ties

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in the Turkish capital Saturday for a trip aimed at improving relations with this NATO ally, where anti-American sentiment has been strong since the start of the war in neighboring Iraq. Rice's two-day visit is part of a tour of Europe and the Middle East, his first since becoming the top American diplomat.

Earlier Saturday, during a visit to Poland, she said European allies expressed their readiness to mend ties frayed by differences with the United States over the war in Iraq.

"I think what we're hearing from Europe is a desire to move on to the next chapter in this great alliance," she said following a meeting with Polish Foreign Minister Adam Rodfeld.

Rice thanked Poland, a durable ally in Iraq, for placing troops in Iraq early and keeping them there. Standing with the prime minister, Marek Belka, she made a special point to express her condolences for the loss of Polish life in Iraq.

Upon arriving in Ankara, Rice went straight into a meeting with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Rice's visit comes amid tensions with Turkey, which is terrified that the war in Iraq could lead to the disintegration of the neighboring country and the creation of a Kurdish state in the northern areas.

That could embolden Kurds in southeastern Turkey, where the Turkish army has been battling Kurdish rebels since 1984, a fight that has left 37,000 dead.

Talk of possible sanctions or action against Iran are further stoking Turkish fears of regional instability and Turkish leaders have repeatedly hinted that they feel their concerns are being ignored in Washington.

Protesters held a number of small demonstrations criticizing Rice and U.S. policy in Iraq throughout the country Saturday, including one attended by dozens of leftists outside the U.S. Embassy in Ankara.

Rice also planned to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to plan ahead for a September summit with President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russia also was critical of U.S. policies in Iraq. But Rice, an academic specialist on the former Soviet Union and a Russian

speaker, said the United States has "productive" relations with Russia. Rice heads to Israel on Sunday. She later heads back to Europe, and plans to give a speech in Paris.

Associated Press writer Louis Meixler contributed to this report from Ankara, Turkey.

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G-7 nations willing to offer full debt relief

The Associated Press

LONDON — Finance ministers from the Group of Seven industrial nations said Saturday that they were willing to provide 100 percent debt relief to the world's poorest nations, but insisted developing countries must ensure the money would

be spent wisely.

Britain's Treasury chief Gordon Brown said at the close of the G-7 summit in London that debt relief would be "agreed on a case by case basis."

He said discussions would continue on what financing mechanisms should be used to increase overseas development as-

istance. The International Monetary Fund would examine a proposal to finance debt relief when it meets in April.

G-7 finance ministers must have "sound, accountable and transparent institutions" and develop policies for poverty reduction and sustained economic growth.

Oil-for-food problems

LONDON — Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former U.N. Secretary-General, said Saturday that he regrets the mismanagement of the Iraqi oil-for-food program, but insisted his successor, Kofi Annan, must share the blame.

Boutros-Ghali headed the U.N. in the years leading up to the program's inception in 1996 and played a crucial role in founding it.

Kuwait terror arrests

SULAIBIYAH, Kuwait — Five suspected terrorists held up at a house in Kuwait surrendered to police Saturday, Kuwait Television reported.

Kuwait Television quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying the five were two Saudi Arabians and three Jordanians wanted by authorities.

Attacks in Acapulco

ACAPULCO, Mexico — An unknown number of assailants staged three almost simultaneous, guerrilla-style attacks in Acapulco on Saturday, killing four people a day before a key tri-state gubernatorial election.

It was not clear who carried out the attacks.

From The Associated Press

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Good vote mutually beneficial
The Frederick (Md.) News-Post

It was not a perfect election. As expected, there were areas where voter turnout was light. And there were instances of insurgent violence. Thirty-five deaths were part of the day, but thirty-five deaths are part of many days in Iraq.

This vote was in reality an act of defiance, a notice to those who are trying to illegally seize power in Iraq that the rank and file of the nation are sick of terrorists, whether they be Saddam Hussein or Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. ...

While the real significance of [last] Sunday's election has yet to be determined, it bodes well for both Iraq and the United States. ...

For the United States, it may be the first real sign that an American presence in Iraq will not be required for many additional years, even decades, to come, as some have been predicting. With this crucial election now history, the United States' best strategy may be to redouble the efforts and resources it is devoting to training Iraq's new army and civil authorities. ...

The sooner the United States exits Iraq the better — for both nations. The one thing that must be avoided is losing all of the hard-won gains ... that have been made since the invasion. That would be counterproductive and unacceptable.

Elections can't cure all ills
The Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News

[Last] Sunday's elections in Iraq, which saw a turnout much higher than anyone expected, were an inspiring stride forward for that country. ...

The participation of millions of voters despite deadly threats from terrorists is a shining example of courage that may send shock waves through powerful Arab oligarchies. ...

With more elections planned before the end of the year to select new leaders under a new constitution, Iraq seems well on its way toward self-governance. Yet for all the importance of the events Sunday, Iraq is far from out of the woods. One of the major concerns is Sunni minority's lack of participation in the election. ...

No Iraqi government can hope for legitimacy as long as foreign military forces continue to occupy it. For Iraq to prosper, to flourish, America and its allies must leave. It'd be shameful if America decides to do that prematurely, and it'd be disastrous if Iraq's leaders demand it before they are ready to accept the burden of government themselves. Yet the worst possible postelection scenario would be if President Bush interprets the big turnout as a mandate for American forces to remain in the country indefinitely. ...

Deficit strategy insufficient
Dayton (Ohio) Daily News

With the White House estimating that the Iraq war costs more than \$1 billion a week, the annual deficit for this year is now expected to be about \$427 billion. ...

There are lots of reasons to be worried about deficits, some better than others; some clearer, some more theological. For one thing, this country's inability to control its budget deficit (or, for that matter, its trade deficit) is said to be weakening confidence in the dollar and in the country's economy, as the dollar's decline relative to other currencies. ...

Meanwhile, the administration has enacted an expansion of Medicare. It is pushing for a change in Social Security that would have enormous expenses on the front end. It



wants to extend the temporary tax cuts it enacted in the president's first term. And it has no higher priority than Iraq.

If there's a deficit-reduction strategy, it seems to be to rely on luck, in the form of a good economy and the opportunity to withdraw some troops from Iraq. In the eyes of the world, it's a strategy that amounts to nothing — except talk.

Cast out acts that hurt fishing
The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

A recreational fishing group is trying to enlist President Bush's help in protecting redfish in the Gulf of Mexico from the damage posed by Shell US Gas & Power LLC, redfish landings in Louisiana could decrease by 25 percent, according to scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency.

Recreational fishers aren't the only ones who would be affected. Redfish is also an important species for commercial fishers, restaurants and cooks in Louisiana. Federal agencies need to look out for their interests when deciding what companies should be allowed to do in the Gulf of Mexico.

If two Gulf terminals that have already been approved are joined by a third proposed by Shell US Gas & Power LLC, redfish landings in Louisiana could decrease by 25 percent, according to scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency. Recreational fishers aren't the only ones who would be affected. Redfish is also an important species for commercial fishers, restaurants and cooks in Louisiana. Federal agencies need to look out for their interests when deciding what companies should be allowed to do in the Gulf of Mexico.

Ready for new shuttle flights?
Florida Today, Melbourne

In the perilous realm of human space-flight, you don't get second chances. One mistake, one bad decision and the result can be disaster.

It's the bottom-line point that needs to be remembered ... as NASA and the nation mark the second anniversary of the shuttle Columbia accident and the loss of its seven astronauts as they headed home to Kennedy Space Center. ...

The 24 months since then have been a head-spinning mix of trauma and hope for the agency: trauma in the accident and the

revelations of the errors and deep institutional flaws that caused it, and hope in its giving birth to NASA's new moon-Mars quest.

Yet with Discovery's liftoff just four months away, we remain deeply concerned that NASA is fixed on the May launch even though it still hasn't proven that all the required technical and program improvements have been put in place and are solid.

The main reason is the fragile state of the space station, and the need to resume critical shuttle resupply flights that have been grounded since Columbia went down.

Force drug companies' hand
The Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Journal

Millions of Americans, especially seniors, are understandably fed up with the high cost of prescription drugs. Many aren't waiting for long-promised changes in the law — they are finding ways to place orders through Canadian pharmacies, sometimes with the help of local governments, to obtain less expensive medicines.

The Bush administration has opposed opening the nation's borders to prescription drugs, saying the safety of imports cannot be guaranteed. But that ignores the reality that so many Americans are going this route anyway, with no federal oversight.

A bipartisan group of Senate and House members wants to change that. It has unveiled legislation that would allow Americans to legally import some prescription drugs from Canada and two dozen other industrialized countries. ...

Sensing Congress is inclined to do more, 10 major pharmaceutical companies recently announced they will lower the prices of certain drugs for low-income people who are uninsured. ...

The pharmaceutical companies can be pressed to do more — but Congress and the courts should push them on behalf of Americans struggling to pay for their medicines.

Opinions aren't a commodity
The Times Herald-Record, Middletown, N.Y.

Yet another syndicated columnist has been discovered on the Bush administration payroll helping to promote one of its policies. If this keeps up, the president's going to have to create a Cabinet post just for a secretary of propaganda.

The president says he has ordered his Cabinet to cease hiring supposedly independent

commentators to promote his policies. Bush said, "Our agenda ought to be able to stand on its own two feet."

No question, but since this White House's propensity for spin control on all sorts of important issues, one can't help but be bemused at the administration's belated efforts at distancing itself from anything smacking of propaganda. ...

The problem here ought to be self-evident. It is wrong and probably unlawful for the government to use taxpayer dollars to try to gain support for its policies by hiring reporters or columnists to provide positive accounts of some government policy or to produce what appear to be independent news accounts for the same purpose. ...

For the White House, not knowing that the purchasing of opinions from commentators whose views are supposedly reached independently is a bigger problem.

SBC effort has familiar ring
San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News

For consumers, the future of telephone, Internet and even television service will be shaped in large part by two opposing forces: mergers, which typically reduce choice for consumers, and innovation, which expands it. ...

More than any other event so far, the planned buyout of AT&T by SBC Communications symbolizes the ascendancy of mergers as the principal force shaping the industry, and that may leave consumers in a bind.

SBC, along with six other Baby Bells, was created 21 years ago by the breakup of AT&T. Now, the offspring is swallowing its former parent.

Besides being a dominant force in local and long-distance service, it's a powerful player in broadband Internet service, and a growing force in television, through partnerships with satellite-TV firms. Its 60 percent ownership of Cingular Wireless makes it a leader in the cell-phone business as well.

The other Bells, while smaller, also offer a similarly broad menu of services. Only the cable firms, which have recently made a push into telephone service, can provide comparable products.

There's nothing wrong with face sufficient competition. The risk that consumers face, however, is that a frenzy of mergers will quash competition before innovative firms gain a foothold in the marketplace. ...

It these trends continue, American consumers will end up with more technologies and services to choose from, but fewer choices of providers. That ... could leave consumers at the mercy of ever rising prices.

Victims of '94 Sarajevo massacre remembered

Red roses on an old market stand used 11 years ago replaced the usual fruit and vegetable stands on the day of the 11th anniversary of a massacre at the downtown market in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, on Saturday. Sarajevans commemorated Saturday the victims of a wartime massacre in which a Serb mortar attack killed 67 people and injured 142.



The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Sarajevans commemorated Saturday the victims of a wartime massacre 11 years ago, in which a mortar shell fired from a hill outside the besieged city landed on a crowded downtown market, killing 67 people and injuring 142.

Vegetable and fruit sellers removed their stands to make room for several hundred survivors, family members of victims and officials who gathered at the Markale market to remember the victims.

Several wooden stands that were used at the market 11 years ago were brought back in and covered with red roses.

The names of the 67 killed were read out, and people laid flowers in front of a

wall displaying the names, which was erected at the site where the 120 millimeter mortar shell landed in the 1994 attack.

"We should not forget, but we must move on. Coexistence and tolerance are our foundation and our tradition," said Sulejman Thic, a member of the Bosnian multiethnic presidency.

He added that for the sake of justice and peace, the perpetrators of this and other crimes committed during the war in Bosnia must be found and punished.

The 1994 market place massacre was the worst Sarajevo saw during the nearly 1,400 days of siege by the Bosnian Serb forces.

Over 11,000 Sarajevo civilians died during the 1992-95 war between the Muslim Bosniaks, Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats in Bosnia.

European nations working to integrate Gypsy minority

BY VESELIN TOSHKOV

The Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — Leaders from eight central and eastern European countries agreed Wednesday to work together to fight prejudice and discrimination against Roma and fully integrate this minority into their societies.

Prime ministers and government officials from Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Slovakia gave their backing to the 10-year initiative for improving the social and economic status of Europe's Gypsies, called the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

The project is sponsored by the World Bank and the Open Society Institute and aims to fight isolation, unemployment and illiteracy among one of Europe's largest minorities.

"Every person deserves a chance for a better life," Bulgarian Prime Minister Simeon Saxoburgotski said at the launch ceremony.

"I strongly believe in the abilities and the talent of the people from the Roma minority," he said, but urged them to show "more confidence in their own abilities."

World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn called the initiative "one of the great moral issues facing Europe today."

"This is the first time that the governments are showing real political will to see that Roma are equal citizens in a growing Europe," said George Soros, chairman of the Open Society Institute.

The international financier and philanthropist, who called for the initiative two years

ago, will contribute \$30 million to the newly established Roma Education Fund, which will support education reform.

Governments, multilateral and private organizations and individuals have also contributed to the Fund, which now has more than \$43 million. However, a Roma activist said that although the initiative was welcome, he did not believe 10 years would be enough to make a difference.

"After centuries of neglect and discrimination, 10 years is a rather short period to expect some real progress," Asen Slavchev of the Roma-Lom Foundation said. "But this decade could lay the foundations for change ... so it could prove useful."

The project is guided by an International Steering Committee, made up of representatives of governments, Roma from each country and international organizations.

Roma are now one of the poorest, poorest and fastest growing minorities in Europe with a total population estimated at between 7 to 9 million.

Some 6 million Roma live in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, with nearly 5 million in the new member states of the European Union.

Also on Wednesday, the United Nations Development Program released a new survey on the status of Roma minorities in central and eastern Europe, providing thorough statistical data to outline Gypsies' position as highly underprivileged members of society.

"On measures such as unemployment, housing, school enrollment, literacy, access to essential drugs, running water and modern communications, the Roma fall far behind the majority populations," the survey said.



A group of Roma, or Gypsies, drive in a horse-drawn cart down a busy street in downtown Belgrade last week. Serbian officials discussed the position of the Roma minority at an international conference on the issue held in Sofia, Bulgaria, last week.

According to UNDP's study, the number of Roma living in poverty is five times greater than the rest of the populations surveyed in Bulgaria and Serbia, and three times greater in Macedonia and Romania.

In all countries except for the Czech Republic, fewer than two in 10 Roma have completed primary education, the report said.

The survey was carried out through face-to-face interviews with 4,345 non-Roma and 5,001 Roma households in the eight Decade countries as well as in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and in the Serbian province of Kosovo.

French march to defend short working hours

The Associated Press

PARIS — Trade unions handed a slap Saturday to President Jacques Chirac's conservative government, gathering tens of thousands of people at marches to protest plans to chip away at the short working week.

Tens of thousands of marchers set off on a demonstration through eastern Paris on Saturday afternoon.

A march earlier in Toulouse in southwest France drew 14,000 protesters, police said, while organizers said 25,000 took part. At least 4,000 people — mostly civil servants and employees from state-owned firms — marched in Saint-Etienne in the southeast.

In all, unions were hoping the more than 100 protests planned in cities and towns around France would draw hundreds of thousands of people.

Unions called the demonstrations against a proposal from Chirac's governing party that aims to relax a law limiting the workweek to 35 hours.

Changes would allow employees to work up to 48 hours a week, the European limit. Supporters say the proposal would lift a burden off companies and state finances and allow workers to earn more money.

Critics claim the proposal would destroy the gain of working less.



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IN THE STATES

Bush radio talk touts Social Security plan

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fresh from a five-state tour promoting his plan to add private accounts to Social Security, President Bush pledged on Saturday to go beyond that proposal and push for an overhaul to make the retirement system permanently solvent.

Bush told his weekly radio audience that the budget he submits to Congress on Monday will hold the growth of discretionary spending below the projected 2.3 percent rate of inflation.

Discretionary programs are ones Congress must re-approve each year; the White House estimates their cost at \$823 billion this year.

"I welcome the bipartisan calls to control the spending appetite of the federal government," Bush said.

He spent the two days after his State of the Union address in rallies around the country to press Congress to back his idea of letting younger workers put up to two-thirds of their Social Security tax contributions into accounts invested in stocks and bonds. In return, those workers would see an unspecified reduction in their traditional Social Security benefit.

The Social Security system needs radical change to be saved, Bush said, and one step he is proposing is the private accounts.

He said private accounts would allow younger workers a possible better rate of return — without mentioning possible negative results — and the accounts would be something they could pass on to heirs.

"We will make the system a better deal for younger workers by allowing them to save some of their payroll taxes in voluntary personal retirement accounts — a nest egg they can call their own, which government can never take away," the president said.

He also has acknowledged that more must be done to solve the long-term financial problems of the government retirement program.

"We will make Social Security's finances permanently sound, not leave the task for another day," he said.

Democrats have disputed Bush's assertion the Social Security system is in crisis, pointing out that it is not until 2042 when the system will be able to cover only about 73 percent of benefits owed. Most also oppose Bush's plan for private accounts, saying



President Bush talks about his plan to reform Social Security during a town hall meeting Friday afternoon in Tampa, Fla., at the Tampa Convention Center. Bush also discussed the plan in his weekly radio address Sunday.

they would result in unacceptable benefit cuts, add to the federal debt and speed the program's insolvency.

In his party's weekly radio address Saturday, Democratic National Committee chairman Terry McAuliffe replied: "While Social Security faces challenges, Bush's privatization plan would make things worse. Benefit cuts, massive debt and more insecurity are not the type of drastic changes we need to make to our nation's retirement security."

Ruling may wreck U.S. case against tobacco industry

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An appeals court says the federal government cannot use a racketeering law to seek a huge penalty against the tobacco industry.

The decision by a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit dealt a major blow to the government's attempt to hold cigarette makers accountable for decades of alleged deceit about the dangers of smoking, ruling the Justice Department can't seek \$280 billion in penalties.

Friday's 2-1 ruling comes in the midst of a months-long trial in U.S. District Court on the government's lawsuit contending the industry knew about the health dangers of smoking but hid that information from the public. The trial will continue while the government considers an appeal.

Even if the decision stands,

U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler could impose restrictions on the tobacco companies, such as limiting marketing or requiring the industry to fund public health campaigns or smoking cessation programs.

Still, the appeals court decision was a major win for tobacco companies. Wall Street greeted it by sending stock prices of cigarette makers sharply higher.

Charles A. Blixt, executive vice president and general counsel for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., said the ruling "dramatically transforms" the government's lawsuit.

Government lawyers were reviewing the ruling and had no immediate comment, Justice Department spokeswoman Kimberly Smith said. They could request a rehearing in front of the three judges, ask for the full appeals court to consider the case or appeal to the Supreme Court.

The \$280 billion is the most ever sought in a civil racketeering trial.

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Friends remember Davis for art, activism

BY DON SINGLETON

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Ossie Davis was remembered Friday as a man who championed racial justice in memorable roles on the stage and screen and as an African-American man of extraordinary stature.

Davis, who was found dead in a Miami hotel room, starred in the epic TV series "Roots" and Spike Lee's breakthrough 1988 film "Do the Right Thing." He was in Florida to start filming for the movie "Retirement," his Hollywood talent agency said. He was 87.

Davis was born in Cogdell, Ga. He and his wife and longtime acting partner, Ruby Dee, made their home in New Rochelle,

N.Y. Dee was in New Zealand on Friday to make a movie, according to Davis' agent, Michael Livingston.

"Ossie Davis was an actor and an artist of enormous talent whose portrayal of the human experience reminded us each time of the frailties and beauty of our collective experiences," said New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"Look up the dictionary definition for activist," said actor Bill Cosby. "He was also the epitome of a role model."

Performer Harry Belafonte spoke of Davis on Friday at the Schomburg Center in Harlem. "The loss of Ossie Davis is one of the most profound losses of my life," he said. "I will miss him in more ways than I can imagine."

"The passing of Ossie Davis is a tremendous loss to the world community, the nation, the civil rights movement and me personally," said the Rev. Al Sharpton. "Whether it was going to jail together to protest the brutal killing of Amadou Diallo or watching the Super Bowl at the home of black businessman Earl Graves, Ossie was ... a giant tree that fell in our forest that can never be replaced."

Davis, who wrote, acted, directed and produced for the theater and Hollywood, was a central figure among black performers for decades. He and Dee celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1998 with the publication of a dual autobiography, "In This Life Together."

When not on stage or on camera, Davis

and Dee were deeply involved in civil rights issues and efforts to promote the cause of blacks in the entertainment industry. In 1965, Davis delivered the eulogy at the funeral of Malcolm X.

The couple nearly ran afoul of the anti-Communist witch hunts of the early 1950s but were never openly accused of any wrongdoing.

Actor Roy Scheider, who had performed with Davis and attended anti-war rallies with him, called Davis and Dee "the first political couple of America."

"Ossie seemed to always show up at the right time, on the right side, which was always the human side," Scheider said. "He was always progressive and had a very heartfelt sympathy for all people everywhere."

Pair accused of torturing kids caught

BY MIKE BRANOM

The Associated Press

INVERNESS, Fla. — A Florida couple accused of torturing and starving five adopted children — including pulling out their toenails and subjecting them to electric shocks — were captured in southeastern Utah after police tracked them through their cell phones, officials said.

John and Linda Dollar were jailed Friday in San Juan County, Utah, on Florida warrants of felony aggravated child abuse.

The family included seven adopted children between the ages of 12 and 17. Five of the children told investigators they were tortured by the couple, subjected to electric shocks, beatings with hammers and having their toenails yanked out with pliers.

Authorities said the abused five had physical injuries to back up their claims and were severely malnourished. They told of being forced to sleep in a closet in the Dollars' bedroom because the couple accused them of stealing food and misbehaving, said sheriff's spokeswoman Gail Tierney.

"They looked like the photos that we've seen of Auschwitz," said Tierney, describing 14-year-old twins, one weighing 36 pounds, the other 38 pounds — about 80 pounds below the normal weights for their age.

The other two children were favored by the Dollars and were unharmed, Tierney said. All seven are in state custody.



Linda Dollar



John Dollar

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The latest trend in the bread industry involves promoting whole grains in the new federal guidelines and points to the benefits of grains.

Bread industry bites back

New ad campaign promotes benefits of whole grains

BY DAVID SHARP

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Low-carb bread? That's so 2004. The bread industry, hoping for a comeback after last year's low-carb fad, is telling consumers bread is good for them — especially whole-grain bread.

Bread makers learned from the low-carb craze that they need to market themselves better. So, three weeks after new government guidelines calling for three one-ounce servings of whole grains a day, the industry is starting a campaign touting health benefits.

Industry officials say the trend

is in their favor.

"There was an all-out assault on our industry, but people are coming back to bread and are realizing why they loved it in the first place," said Lee Schwebel of Schwebel Baking Co. in Youngstown, Ohio. "Try making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich without bread."

On Tuesday, the industry will launch a low-carb counterattack pointing to benefits of grains as part of an overall diet. The \$3.5 million Grains for Life campaign will be announced in New York and Washington with billboards, posters and people dancing in bread costumes.

"The message we're trying to get out is it's the calories, not the carbs," said Lori Sachau of the Wheat Foods Council in Colorado.

Critics contend it was predictable that fickle Americans would eventually tire of the latest diet, but bread industry officials were surprised at how quickly low-carb seemed to fall out of favor.

A survey by NPD Group, an independent marketing information company, found the number of American adults on any low-carb diet peaked at 9.1 percent last February and dropped to 3.6 percent by mid-November.

"The path low-carb has taken is not unlike a lot of other stuff except that it burst so fast. It went up very fast. Sometimes when things go up fast, they come down just as fast," said Stan Osman of Interstate Bakeries Corp., maker of Wonder Bread and Twinkies.

But that's not to say the nation is about to see a bread boom.

Bread sales were flat even before the obsession with the Atkins, South Beach and other carb-limiting diets, and the industry can't make up for the lost ground overnight.

While bread is still a staple for most Americans, they're not eating it as often as they used to, causing a slow decline that has been offset only by a growing population.

In Portland, Stephen Lanzalot opened his Italian bakery in 2000 with bread accounting for about 90 percent of sales. Business dipped in part because of low-carb diets, and bread now accounts for 20 percent of sales.

Lanzalot stayed in business by boosting his offerings of sandwiches and pastries and expanding his menu with breakfast and Sunday brunch.

Overall, the shift away from low-carb is drawing people back not just to bread but to other products that took a hit, like orange juice, cereals, potatoes, bagels and pasta, said Joel Crowder of grocer Kroger Co. in Cincinnati.

Meanwhile, many consumers have given up on low-carb breads and pasta.

"There were a lot of low-carb products that were rushed to the market that didn't taste good," Crowder said. "That's probably what turned a lot of consumers off."

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Cold deters crime

ME WATERVILLE — The nose-runnin' cold that put Maine in the deep-freeze for much of January was enough to keep many Mainers in the warmth of their homes.

It also keeps crime rates down, law enforcement officials say.

In fact, crime rates generally go up and down in tandem with the rise and fall of outdoor temperatures, according to Maine Department of Public Safety statistics.

February is usually the month with the lowest crime rate in Maine, while July and August have the highest crime rates, according to Department of Public Safety statistics.

In 2003, Maine recorded 2,104 serious crimes in February and 3,387 crimes in July, a 61 percent increase over the span.

Steven Giordetti, assistant professor of criminal justice at Thomas College, said criminals tend to be aware of their surroundings.

"They're aware they may be leaving tracks in the snow that police can follow," he said. "And they're aware it's harder to escape on a slippery winter surface."

911 for directions

LA MONROE — Jerry Wayne Till managed to get away from sheriff's deputies and elude them briefly — until he called them for help after he got lost in the woods.

A sheriff's deputy tried to pull over Till on Wednesday evening for speeding, but Till drove away, exceeding 100 mph at times, before eventually abandoning his vehicle and running into the woods, according to the arrest affidavit.

Deputies brought in search dogs, but couldn't locate Till until he called the sheriff's office from his cell phone asking for help because he was lost.

Taxes are no joke

OH MIDDLETOWN — Taxes are no laughing matter. The city's tax superintendent has been suspended without pay for a week for trying to inject some humor in the city income tax filing instructions.

The attempt at humor by Linda Stubbs was called "misguided" by city Finance Director John Lyons.

The forms — with such lines as, "If we can tax it, we will," — were sent to all Middletown businesses and residents who pay city income tax.

City officials didn't laugh at lines like: "Free advice: if you don't have a profit in a five-year period, you might want to consider another line of work."

Falling real estate

TX DALLAS — Back yards in a half-dozen houses surrounding an Irving lake have dropped about six feet, collapsing decks and toppling fences.

An area about 50 yards long and 10 yards wide collapsed about midnight Tuesday, dropping back yards along the southern banks of the 130-acre Vibig Lake on the south side of the Dallas suburb of Irving.



"It's like it imploded from underneath," said Teresa Castro, staring out at the roughly 5-foot drop about 6 feet from her home's foundation. "It's unusual. I've never seen anything like it."

No one said they heard anything to indicate anything was wrong.

Area resident Jim Ferguson lost his 16-by-16-foot wood deck and several birdhouses he had up on poles.

"The dog was out, but he apparently had enough sense to stay out."

Online beyond the grave

WV CHARLESTON — The recording industry sued Gertrude Walton, accusing her of illegally trading music over the Internet as "smittenedkitten."

But the lawsuit was filed more than a month after the 83-year-old woman died in December, and her daughter says Walton hated computers, anyway.

A group of record companies named Walton as the sole defendant in a federal lawsuit, claiming she made more than 700 songs available for free on the Internet.

Walton's daughter, Robin Chianumba, lived with her mother for the last 17 years and said her mother objected to having a computer in the house.

"I am pretty sure she is not going to leave Greenwood Memorial Park (where she is buried) to attend the hearing," Chianumba said.

Grading gripe

NV LAS VEGAS — Bob Whitney, 52, alleges in the lawsuit that a history professor

He's suing the University of Nevada, Las Vegas after losing an appeal over the grade.

Bob Whitney, 52, alleges in the lawsuit that a history professor



Capitol reflections

The State Capitol in Madison, Wis., is reflected in a puddle on State Street.

discriminated against him because of his conservative values. He seeks at least \$10,000 for emotional distress, tuition, books and living expenses University officials say the complaint filed Jan. 12 in Clark County District Court has no merit.

Whitney said the grade he got in Eugene Moehring's class in spring 2004 damaged his grade-point average and made him ineligible for student loans. He claimed Moehring's fast-paced lectures prevented him from taking complete notes, and Moehring criticized his conservatism in written assignments.

Twin creates quandary

MA BOSTON — For the second time in seven months, jurors deadlocked in the case of a man accused of rape after hearing that DNA found at the scene could have come from his twin brother.

The same thing happened in Darrin Fernandez's first trial last June. However, he was convicted on similar evidence in an unrelated rape case in 2003.

On Monday, a Suffolk Superior Court jury told Judge Thomas E. Connolly it could not reach a verdict after deliberating about 20 hours over five days. Fernandez is accused of breaking into a young woman's apartment in Dorchester in 2001 and raping her.

Budget crunch

CO DENVER — This year was supposed to be different at the Colorado Capitol.

After winning control of the House and Senate for the first time in 42 years, Democrats were promising friendly collaboration, open doors and a renewed dedication to solving the state's budget crunch. Instead, things have been ugly from the start.

On the first day of the session, Republican Sen. Norma Anderson broke tradition and voted against Democrat Joan Fitz-Gerald as Senate president. She said she was upset because Democrats had fired a popular clerk and wanted to show her displeasure.

Democrats then angered Republicans by using Google to challenge facts cited by GOP Gov. Bill Owens during his state of the state speech that Colorado's economy is improving. Just this week Democrats killed the only GOP plan to fix the state's budget woes.

One-term limit

VA RICHMOND — For the 13th straight year, legislation to allow the Virginia governor the opportunity to serve two successive terms died Friday in the General Assembly.

A proposed constitutional amendment to end the state's practice of barring governors from seeking re-election was defeated on a 5-15 vote in a House committee. While lots of states have term limits, Virginia is the only one to limit its governors to a single, four-year term.

Discouraged at the lopsided vote, the resolution's sponsor, Delegate Harry R. Purkey, withdrew four other similar measures for the year.



Fiery encounter

A firefighter battles a blaze at the California Apartments in Pleasantville, N.J. The fire demolished a building but no injuries were reported.



Musical diversion

Jon Van Arsdell warms up on the guitar in the Capitol Rotunda before performing in the House and Senate during the 2005 Legislative Session in Santa Fe, N.M. Van Arsdell is part of the University of New Mexico's Mariachi Lobo, a band made up of students, alumni and faculty from the school.



Mardi Gras fanfare

Revelers from the Order of LaSalle parade along Royal Street in Mobile, Ala. The pre-Lenten blowout continues along the Gulf Coast culminating in Fat Tuesday celebrations Feb. 8.



Balancing act

James Robinson, a freshman from Dunleavy High School, enjoys the time spent at the skate park at Millennium Park in Danville, Ky. The rain puddles and cold weather didn't stop skateboarders doing what they do best.



Just hanging around

Four-year-old Sydney Neusc, right, pushes her sister, Katherine, in a tire swing at Wade Park in Paris, Texas.



The big finish

Illinois Special Olympics Winter Games athlete Thomas M. Strack of Mt. Greenwood Park, Ill., reaches the finish of a portion of his level 3 Singles Figure Skating competition held at the Five Flags Center in Dubuque, Iowa.



Majestic scenery

Jon Crandall of Coram, Mont., paddles his canoe across Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park, Mont.

Tasers in schools

MN Julie Maidment is still doing the same job, protecting St. Paul, Minn., Highland Park High School as its school resource officer. She's still chatty and easy with a smile, more likely to talk kids away from trouble than to punish them. But if you look closer, you see it — that small, bright yellow weapon on the left side of her equipment belt. On Monday, Tasers made their first appearance in Minnesota schools on the belts of St. Paul officers.

St. Paul police are putting Tasers in the schools, not as a response to any problems but as part of their ongoing effort to train and equip all their officers with the weapon, said officer Paul Schnell, a department spokesman.

Endangered plant

CA MARSHALL — One of California's rarest plants was nearly wiped out of existence when county workers used heavy machinery to unclog a roadside drain in the species' sole habitat.

The Baker's larkspur, a purplish plant that blooms April through May and grows up to 2 feet tall, is found in only one place in the world — near a road in western Marin County.

The damage followed heavy rains last October that pushed debris down a hillside and into the drain, flooding the road. Workers used a mechanical digger to clear the plug cut into the hillside at the exact spot where most of the Baker's larkspur grow.

In minutes, a population of 100 plants was reduced to five.

Members of the Marin Native Plant Society, Marin County Public Works Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state Department of Fish and Game met Tuesday to discuss the fate of the plant and how to better protect it.

Truck strikes teens

MA BOSTON — Four high school students were injured, two seriously, when they were hit by a pickup truck as they walked in front of West Roxbury High School on Friday, police said.

The incident occurred on the VFW Parkway around 7:30 a.m., according to state police Lt. Sharon Costin. WCVB-TV reported the teens were walking on the road when they were hit. The driver of the truck said he was distracted by his 2-year-old child before he hit the teens. The station did not identify the driver.

The victims were reportedly taken to Children's Hospital.

DNA for DUI

TX FORT WORTH — Some Tarrant County police departments have begun using search warrants, in some cases, to obtain blood to test suspected drunken drivers who refuse to take a breath test.

"We have to treat DUI as a serious crime, just like we do any other crime," Sgt. Don Hanlon, supervisor of Fort Worth's traffic investigation unit, said of driving while intoxicated. "We've become accustomed to giving blood

samples for DNA testing for violent crime. This is just a continuation of that. It's evidence of a person's innocence or guilt."

He's alive!

NC RALEIGH, N.C. — A medical examiner studying a body in a morgue was startled when the man took a shallow breath.

Emergency medical technicians had declared 29-year-old Larry D. Green dead about two hours earlier, after he was hit by a car.

Medical examiner J.B. Perdue was called to the accident scene Monday but did not examine Green then. Later, he was documenting Green's injuries when he noticed the man was breathing.

Green, 29, was taken to Duke University Medical Center in Durham, where he was in critical condition Wednesday.

Big money for mummy

WY CASPER, Wyo. — A man is offering \$50,000 for the Pedro Mountain Mummy, a tiny set of human remains that were found in Wyoming and have not been seen in public for 55 years.

John Adolfi, of Syracuse, N.Y., said he wants the mummy so it can undergo DNA testing, X-rays and magnetic resonance imaging.

Several photos and many descriptions of the artifact remain. In its seated position, the mummy stands 7 inches tall. If it were to stand up, it would only measure about 17 inches.

Adolfi hypothesizes that modern science would prove that Pedro was an adult at the time of his death — perhaps one of the "little people" spoken of in Arapaho and Shoshone tales.

Forget good behavior

FL TALLAHASSEE — More than 50 inmates face charges and 102 were transferred after a prison brawl in which one guard was stabbed and 11 others were beaten.

The melee at the Alapalache Correctional Institution in Sneads sprung on Monday when a convicted murderer who was being questioned about a homemade knife attacked a guard, authorities said. More guards were sent into the recreation yard, where some of the almost 200 prisoners began attacking them.

Voice in jeopardy

NH CONCORD — Doris "Granny D" Haddock, one of the nation's most relentless voices for campaign finance reform, has been silenced by a surgery that could cost her voice.

Haddock, who ran for the U.S. Senate last year and gained national attention by walking across the country to promote campaign finance reform, underwent surgery on her windpipe Thursday.

The 95-year-old Democrat used her well-known New England-tinged voice last year to run against Republican Sen. Judd Gregg, who defeated her 66 percent to 34 percent.

Burke said the surgery was to remove blockage from Haddock's windpipe.

Stories and photos from news wires

Black leaders fire of February spotlight

Many now consider Black History Month to be patronizing, seek attention all year

BY ERIN TEXEIRA

The Associated Press

The only black county commissioner in Dallas, John Wiley Price spoke Monday to 100 mostly black middle school students about history, responsibility and their futures. If he had been invited the following day — Feb. 1 — he would have refused.

That's not because of a scheduling conflict. Price no longer makes public appearances during Black History Month. Like some other top speakers, Price has grown weary of being in high demand for just a few weeks and then often ignored.

"I'm not going to be, as the kids say, 'rinsed' during the month of February," Price said.

A few years ago, Price said, he was inundated with speaking requests. Then he realized that "black people were visible during February, but the other 11 months of the year we became the invisible people."

He isn't a lone rebel: Twenty-nine years after Black History Month was officially designated by the federal government, something of a backlash has begun.

Though February is still an exhilarating time for many high-profile black Americans, whose research and life experiences are celebrated, others see it as overwhelping, even debilitating.

They grow weary of, travel-

ing almost daily, giving keynote addresses, participating in symposiums and moderating panels. And their physical exhaustion highlights an unsavory reality: Come March 1, public interest in them and their work plummets.

"Black history being confined to that month is more aggravating than ameliorating," said Larry Aubry, a columnist with the Los Angeles Sentinel, a black weekly, who worked on the Los Angeles County Human

Relations Commission for 34 years. "There's no commitment there. I'm looking for more in the full 12 months."

Black History Month has roots in historian Carter G. Woodson's Negro History Week, which he designated in 1926 as the second week in February to mark the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Woodson,

who also began the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, said he hoped the week could one day be eliminated — when black history would become fundamental to American history.

Now his idea has been expanded to include all of February, a month when there are seemingly nonstop television programs, art exhibits, films, historical tours, new books and public lectures.

Attendance at black museums and historical sites also multiplies, and even the list of events with no historical tie ap-

pears to be growing.

For instance, the Baltimore County public schools will participate in National African American Parent Involvement Day on Feb. 14. That day, the University of Akron in Ohio has planned a public dialogue titled "Brothers Talking to Brothers: Let's Talk — Relationships with Black Women."

Last year, the Bronx Zoo highlighted its African animals.

"An industry has grown up around [Black History Month] which is really quite fascinating," said Nell Irvin Painter, a Princeton historian. Like Kwanzaa, said, "It became a corporate holiday, a way for corporations and museums and the U.S. postal service to declare they're multicultural bona fide."

Painter no longer accepts invitations to events pegged to the month, however, because they typically come from groups that "want to hear the same old thing, very often."

Still, despite their misgivings about Black History Month, Painter and others think it should continue. The reason: They believe black history would become even more marginalized without it.

"I can't tell you how important it was for me, growing up, to hear from people who looked like me about their successes, their aspirations, their trials and things they were able to overcome," said Carolyn McKinstry, who is the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., when it was bombed by the Ku Klux Klan in 1963, killing four young girls.

Though she has declined at least a dozen speaking invitations for this month, she has agreed to a few, events where "the message



Nell Irvin Painter, a Princeton scholar, no longer accepts invitations to events pegged to Black History Month. Many top speakers have grown weary of being in high demand for a just few weeks during Black History Month, and then otherwise ignored.

will be needed and will make more of an impact on listeners," she said.

If speakers don't choose their venues carefully, Black History Month lectures can become "kinds of performances. They're not necessarily intended to solve problems," said Robin D. G. Kelley, a professor of African American Studies at Columbia University.

"They're enlightening and interesting. It's enlightening entertain-

ment, which is not a bad thing."

Whereas he once traveled nonstop in February, Kelley declined about 100 invitations this month — all except those which he'll speak to youth: "Just when I'm about to get cynical, I give a talk and I have such great engagements with the community and students."

"People are hungry for a conversation, and I can't be too cynical because I remember that hunger myself as a young person."

School relocated to serve as black education museum

BY LINDA MCNATT

The Virginia Pilot
(Norfolk, Va.)

SMITHFIELD, Va. — Lights flashed and police sirens wailed.

Ice rain fell from the sky and pummeled the earth. And little children standing at the front of a church along Main Street cheered and waved. Thursday was a big day in this small town on the Pagan River — the historic, one-room schoolhouse was moving in on a flatbed truck.

But not all the hoopla was due to the school. Between 9:30 and 10 a.m., with the procession still several miles away, a bomb threat was called in to the post office on Main Street in downtown Smithfield.

Police responded by blocking off the street and sending in officers to investigate. It turned out to be a prank, and everything was cleared up before the schoolhouse arrived.

Relocating the school to a spot on Main Street and turning it into a history museum

of black education is the town's Jamestown 2007 project.

The building is a Rosenwald School, a top preservation priority for the state and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Rosenwald Schools were built across the South between 1912 and 1932, financed by Julius Rosenwald, a self-made millionaire, high school dropout and CEO of Sears, Roebuck and Co. Rosenwald provided grants to build more than 5,000 rural schools for young blacks.

The Christian Home Baptist Church was built in a southern corner of Isle of Wight County in 1924. Other than the early 1950s, it was a place where children learned their ABCs, arithmetic and language.

Members of the Christian Home Baptist Church on Longview Drive, near the Suffolk line, gathered to bid the school farewell. The Rev. Wesley Waller gave the building a final blessing, said a prayer and read a psalm.

Bill Somerset, a retired teacher who has

served on the committee in charge of moving the school and restoring it on its new lot, led the trailer, waving a bright orange caution flag from the window of his tan Buick.

At 10:30 a.m., the school arrived in town. Sandra Lowe, a retired teacher from Hampton, stood in the parking lot of Little's Supermarket. Her father, the late Elgin Lowe, had taught at the school for a year, from 1936 to 1937. He stoked the fires on frosty mornings and helped the children with the vegetable garden.

Elgin Lowe may even have built one of the handmade blackboards that would have been at the center of the classroom. Sandblasted boards, pinned together, painted black.

The move down winding, wooded roads cost \$10,000, said Diane Spencer Woolley, director of the Smithfield and Isle of Wight Community Visitors Bureau. The entire project, funded both publicly and privately, is expected to cost about \$260,000.

The schoolhouse committee is collecting

desks of the era. They have a stove. They're doing an oral history. Museum visitors will get to see and hear former students recall their years of learning.

The 20-by-30-foot building had its roof chimneys removed for the move. "It's a good, strong old building," Gabor Tarcian, president of Ace House Movers Inc., said as the school arrived.

The children at the Main Street Learning Center, standing in front of the church across the way, were waiting.

The Rev. James Harrison, minister of Main Street Baptist and a committee member, was just as anxious. Brown, another committee member, stood in the rain with the rest and heard the bad news. It was too wet to place the school on the foundation that had been prepared. The building would sit for another day on the rolling platform.

But even with the cold and ice — and the bomb threat — it was good timing.

"What a nice way for this community to celebrate the beginning of Black History Month," Woolley said, smiling.

Sunday Horoscope

Mars enters Capricorn, a detached and cool placement for this headhunted planet. It's not wise to rush forward to battle without a strategy, and Mars in Capricorn helps evoke ingenious plans. In the weeks to come, employ classic approaches to obtain your goals. Respect the hierarchy of organizations, and that hierarchy will respect you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(February 6) There's no mountain high enough, no river wide enough to keep you from your ambition this year. By clinging to the spirit of determination, you make a lifestyle change this month. Money comes from a new source as a result. In May, a battle of some kind is over, and you can take your victory trophy home. Romance signs are Leo and Libra.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You're feeling grounded and attracted to anyone confident enough to drop all pretension. Even the Flocke-ers of the world are hailing cabs, so anyone playing high and mighty doesn't have a chance with you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) The Beatles wrote it, and you believe it: "All you need is love — love is all you need." Now, if you could only convince that certain someone who keeps nagging you for money.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Everything is fine except for the sneaking suspicion you're becoming indistinct — just another face in the crowd. What will you do to set yourself apart this time? Something custom made just for you will do the trick. Splurge.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) People around you are getting too confusing and frankly a little more riled up than the situation calls for. The winning idea is also a simple one. Step back, and get an objective look at things before giving an opinion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) It's not your job to fix the world, as much as you'd like to help. Besides, if you're neglecting your own needs,

you're really no help at all! Balance your philanthropy with thorough and attentive self-care.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Delegating is always hard for you because nobody does it quite like you can. But today, it will be downright impossible, so don't even try. Wake up early, stay late up, and fall in love with the do-it-yourself process.

Holiday Mathis

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You'll be welcomed into someone's home or taken into someone's confidence. It's so interesting to observe first hand how others are living! Be aware that you are a trusted individual, and do nothing to compromise that trust.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) People who are overly emotional drive you nuts. That's why when you're hit with a surge of intense feeling this afternoon, it's particularly unnerving. Just know that the world will be compassionate — you don't have to hold back.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You make a correct choice and ding-ding-ding — the big winner's bell goes off! Confetti falls from the sky! Well, not really, but there's nothing like the feeling of certainty you get from being right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You're probably going to offend yourself due credit. When you feel you haven't done enough, perhaps the thing to do is ask around. Parents or older relatives can be a fine gauge of your progress. Make the phone call.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) If you're going to be attracted to what's shiny and new, and quite another to be rendered helpless by the attraction. Be strong now. Don't be like the moth that beats itself against the light bulb.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Energy comes from being near the hub of the action. Go where the inspiration is thick. You'll know you're getting something important out of the experience when your thoughts are so loud you can't hear your mouth.

Creators Syndicate

Gang of 'cawdies' imitate cadets

I read that "caddie" comes from "cadet" and I would like to know more about the history of the word. Is there a connection between the military "caddie" and a golf "caddie"? The English adopted the French word "cadet" in the 17th century, they used it the way the French did — both for a "younger brother" and for a young gentleman in training for military service (since these were generally "younger sons," in need of a career).

The Scots, pronouncing "cadet" somewhat in the French way, "CAH-day," but spelling it "cawdie," "cawdie," or "cawdie," also using the word in the mid-17th century to refer to a military trainee.

In 18th-century Scotland a gang of young street people banded together under the leadership of the "Constable of the Cawdies." It is supposed they took their name, and to some degree ran their organization, in imitation of the more respectable "caddies" in military service. Despite their unseemly appearance, they were actually on the lookout for when a kind of employment came their way — odd jobs of any sort. As a result, in Scottish English "cawdie" eventually came to mean "a person who waits about for odd jobs."

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, which may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Daughter's murder request should raise red flags for dad

Dear Abby: What do you think of a very intelligent 15½-year-old girl, a straight-A student, who asks her noncustodial father to kill her mother's boyfriend — which the father, of course, will not do? This girl is not a gang member or on drugs. How do you justify this kind of thinking in a teenage girl, and how do you reconcile the fact that she claims to love her father while asking him to kill somebody for her?

Concerned in Nevada
Dear Concerned: Either the girl has serious emotional problems, or she's having serious problems with her mother's boyfriend. I would not question the girl's love for her father. I would urge him to intervene and see that his daughter receives the help she obviously needs, including assuring that she's out of reach of the boyfriend. She could have been emotionally abused or molested by him.

Dear Abby: My daughter, "Lisa," is 18 and a freshman in college, and has a part-time job in a local clothing store where she receives a 15-percent employee discount. I work in a beauty salon nearby, which allows me to see Lisa during her frequent visits to

the shop. One of my co-workers, "Francine," has on numerous occasions cornered my daughter and asked her to buy things for her, using her employee benefit. This is strictly against store policy. When Francine asks me if Lisa is one of my co-workers, "Francine," I ask her why, and she answers, "She's supposed to let me know when 'whatever' goes on sale." It's not that I'm not that person. If I confront Francine, it will cause tension, which will result in Lisa's visits being less frequent. With our busy schedules, it's the only time I get to see her some days. Is this something I should stay out of, or should I play "rescue man" and get it over with? This has been going on for a few months now, and enough already! It's tacky and rude. Francine is a co-worker, not a friend. How should this be handled?

Furious in Las Vegas
Dear Furious: Your daughter should not be risking her job so that Francine can get a good deal. I know a personable and kind-hearted young man who was fired for doing what your daughter has been doing. Have a talk with Lisa, and tell her that the next time Francine approaches her, she should tell the woman that she cannot do it

because it's against store policy, and she doesn't want to lose her job. It's the truth, and she shouldn't feel guilty for saying it. She's been taken advantage of. If Lisa is afraid to speak up, do it for her.

Dear Abby: I made the mistake of putting out a candy dish at work. I thought I was helping to lift spirits. In one of my co-workers consistently takes candy — usually more than all the clients combined — and she's not even supposed to be eating sugar! Recently, my fiancé and I decided to start saving for a house. We are on a tight budget, so I started putting out candy. My co-worker continually asks where her "treats" are.

I have heard we're trying to save for a house, and her reply was, "Oh, you poor baby. You should put out a collection jar for donations." I don't feel I should ask clients for donations, especially since she's the one taking all the candy. Please advise me how to respond politely to her. I am out of ideas.

Confidential in Maryland
Dear Confidential: The next time your co-worker appears where her treats are, smile sweetly and tell her, "The concession is closed."

Letters for this column — with your name and other identifying information addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate.

Promise of stepdaughter's departure taken off the table

Dear Annie: Two years ago, I met a man with a 16-year-old daughter, "Josie." At the time, my son was 13. "Bob" proposed after we had known each other about a year, and he and Josie moved in with us a few months before we were to marry.

Not long after, I told to Bob that I couldn't marry him because of his daughter. Josie is pompous, spoiled, sarcastic and self-absorbed (her dad agrees). Bob said if Josie was still a problem after we married, he would send her to live with her mother across town. I accepted those terms, and we married. A few months ago, I suggested it was time for Josie to live with her mother, as he had originally offered. However, Bob now claims he cannot recall our conversation and that I must be mistaken.

I am furious with Bob. He refused to have Josie move out, and I feel he manipulated me into this mess. My health is suffering, and I don't want my son in this stressful situation. What should I do?

Trusting Your Judgment
Dear Trusting: Yes, Bob manipulated you. He should not have made any promises he was unwilling to keep. Josie should be 18 by now. If

she is planning to attend college, we strongly recommend you check out the dorms. If she is not going to continue her education, she should get a job and pay rent on her own apartment. If Bob refuses to encourage Josie to move out, insist on counseling so he understands what is at stake.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I laughed out loud when I read the responses to my printed several months ago to the question, "When are you going to have kids?" I thought I was a young mother of four. I often am asked, "When are you going to STOP having kids?" I know we live in a society where American families have an average of 2.2 kids, but my husband and I really love all our children and work hard to raise them right. We think of each one as a blessing.

I would love to have some witty remarks to use when people ask us that rude question.

Mama of Four, San Francisco Bay Area
Dear Mama of Four: As long as you can support them, they are entitled to have as many children as you want. However, since our readers enjoy putting in their two cents, we will print the best responses to your question.

Dear Annie: I am 21 years old. My grandfather helped me find a wonderful job in his state, so I moved in with him. My grandma died about six months ago, so I felt I would be helping Grandpa out, and moving up the career ladder in the process.

Although I love Grandpa and am extremely grateful for his help, he is very stubborn. He absolutely will not take any of my money to help with rent or other expenses.

Grandpa is in good health and is retired. I know he loves having me here, but he is hard to live with. The place is never heated or air-conditioned to my liking, and I don't feel comfortable doing anything without his permission. What, what happens if I invite a guy over? I really want my own place, but I worry about leaving Grandpa alone with no one but his dog for company.

Unsure in Wyoming
Dear Unsure: Dogs make great companions, and if you promise to stop by Grandpa's often and call him to check up on him, he will think you should go ahead and find your own place. Don't let guilt push you into doing something you don't want to do.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Mary Sander, longtime editors of the Amn Landers column. Please send your questions to Annie's Mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o The Associated Press, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

YOUR MONEY

Tough to pay pension plan out of new owners

Q: My company's traditional pension plan was one of the reasons I took a job there. I like the idea of having a guaranteed paycheck in retirement, regardless of how the markets are doing or how much I've managed to put aside.

A: But now our company is being put on the block, and none of the potential buyers seems to have a traditional pension plan. Should my co-workers and I be worried?

A: In a word, yes. Few corporations that don't already offer pensions want to take on the hassles and expense of funding them.

A traditional pension promises a set payment to retired workers for as long as they live. These plans are costly, and companies are increasingly phasing them out or, in some cases, switching to cash-balance plans that are somewhat akin to 401(k) retirement accounts.

The buyer of your company could take one of several courses. The first is to "freeze" the pension, which means you wouldn't lose the benefits you've

accrued, but you wouldn't earn any more. The company would continue to administer the plan and arrange for you to get your retirement payment.

If the company decides to institute a cash-balance plan, the value of your pension holdings would be transferred into the plan, but the rate at which you accumulate future benefits could change.

More radically, the buyer might simply terminate the plan and either buy you an annuity that represents the benefits you've accrued or simply pay those benefits to you in a lump sum.

If the plan doesn't have enough money to pay promised benefits, the buyer could turn it over to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., the quasi-government agency that runs failed plans. Again, you wouldn't accrue new benefits, and it's possible you could lose some if you're a highly paid worker close to retirement.

The PBGC caps benefits at

\$29,649 annually if you retire at 60 or \$45,614 if you retire at 65.

Your chances of persuading a buyer to continue the plan may be low, but you can try making the argument that pensions attract smart, older workers who understand their value, said pension expert Steve Vernon, author of "Live Long and Prosper: Invest in Your Happiness." Health and Wealth for Retirement and Beyond.

You'd be smart, though, to step up your efforts to save on your own. As rapidly as traditional pensions are disappearing, it makes sense for almost every worker to have at least something put aside for his or her own retirement.

Q: On the back of the credit card, what is the purpose of the three numbers that follow the account number? Why do some merchants require these numbers to make purchases over the Internet?

A: The numbers to which you

refer constitute the card security code. (American Express has its four-digit card security code on the front, above the account number.)

You'll notice they're printed on the card, rather than embossed. Online merchants ask for the codes as a way of proving that you actually have the card in your possession and didn't just pick up somebody else's credit card receipt.

It's a matter of self-defense. When a bricks-and-mortar merchant approves a fraudulent purchase, the credit card issuer often reimburses the loss as long as the merchant has the customer's signature on a receipt. With an signature, though, a merchant's exposure is higher; it can face "charge-backs" under which the fraudulent purchase amount is rejected by the credit card company, leaving the merchant to shoulder the loss.

Asking for the code doesn't winnow out the thieves who actually have stolen cards in their possession, or who photocopied someone else's cards. But it does eliminate the most casual of identity thieves, and every little bit of prevention can help a merchant's bottom line.

Q: I have been trying to build my credit. I've never had a late payment on my credit card or auto loan, although I did have some old medical bills from six years ago I recently paid off.

A: But I just checked my credit score, and it has decreased by 95 points! I am so upset I don't know what to do. I spent more than \$1,200 on these bills thinking this would help. Did this hurt me instead?

A: Your desire to do the right thing probably did the wrong thing for your credit score.

Because of the way credit scores are figured, paying an old bill often updates the troubled account, making it look more recent to the national credit bureaus. Because the scoring formula weighs recent behavior more heavily than past behavior, an old black mark that wasn't affecting your score much can suddenly have much more weight when the debt has been paid off.

The plunge in your score means that you'll be paying much higher interest rates and face much tougher credit terms if you apply for a new loan any time soon.

The best thing you can do now is continue making your credit card and auto loan payments promptly and let time try to heal the wound you inadvertently inflicted.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or visit her Web site, www.lizweston.com. She regrets that she can't respond personally to queries.

FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY									
INDEXES									
52-week	Low	High	Net	Chg	% Chg	52-week	Low	High	Net
1,632.96	1,578.49	1,678.49	17.13	+11.81	+1.16	-37	+11.81	-37	+11.81
3,083.96	2,743.46	3,083.96	18.33	+11.33	+1.16	-37	+11.33	-37	+11.33
2,591.86	2,451.86	2,591.86	18.33	+11.33	+1.16	-37	+11.33	-37	+11.33
7,217.18	6,211.33	7,217.18	49.11	+97	+45	+8.82	49.11	+97	+45
1,451.87	1,358.74	1,451.87	14.08	+29.24	+2.18	+25.33	+29.24	+2.18	+25.33
2,135.68	1,950.82	2,135.68	28.86	+29.82	+4.41	+4.08	+29.82	+4.41	+4.08
1,217.69	1,068.72	1,217.69	12.63	+13.14	+1.10	+73	+13.14	+1.10	+73
665.59	548.29	665.59	58.70	+85.25	+12.77	+11.82	58.70	+85.25	+12.77
656.11	515.99	656.11	67.44	+81.29	+21.17	+41.84	67.44	+81.29	+21.17
12,245.32	10,268.52	12,245.32	11,865.91	+103.83	+1.11	-38	+103.83	+1.11	-38

NYSE									
MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)									
Name	Vol	Net	Chg	% Chg	Name	Vol	Net	Chg	% Chg
Apple	40,880	1.22	+0.01	+0.82	SPY	42,120	12.21	+1.12	+9.18
Microsoft	40,745	4.85	+0.01	+0.21	Security	31,911	0.72	0.00	0.00
Alcoa	29,939	24.13	+1.12	+4.82	SPY	42,120	12.21	+1.12	+9.18
Amazon	26,697	67.69	+1.12	+1.64	SPY	42,120	12.21	+1.12	+9.18
Microsoft	20,291	24.15	+1.12	+4.82	SPY	42,120	12.21	+1.12	+9.18
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EXCHANGE RATES									
Military rates									
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Apple	40,880	1.22	+0.01	+0.82	SPY	42,120	12.21	+1.12	+9.18
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Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Behavioral-finance basics

By JUSTIN BACHMAN

The Associated Press

If you're like many American workers with a 401(k), you probably tinker with your investments' composition.

Vigilance of the market and financial adjustments are smart, right? Um, sure. But many of us do silly things with our investments, and don't even realize it.

Understanding a few basic principles of behavioral finance and how it affects our decisions can help, according to Douglas Mangini, head of National Financial Services Inc.'s Financial Planners Chan-

nel. The company is a division of insurance giant Nationwide Mutual Insurance, based in Columbus, Ohio.

Mangini has a few tips:

■ "Don't look to 'strike while the iron's hot.' Statistically, there is no 'hot hand' when it comes to investing, just as casinos don't go bankrupt because of gamblers going on a roll."

■ "Admit mistakes and move on. Don't allow a short-term error to become a long-term problem."

■ "Don't follow the herd. Staying put or selling out on a company just because everyone else is doing so isn't always wise."

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AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—College basketball: Notre Dame at Syracuse.

AFN-Sports, 6 a.m.—College football: College All-Star Skills Challenge (did).

Mario, Young voted into Pro Football Hall of Fame

QB's lead class with Friedman and Pollard

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Dan Marino and Steve Young made it a great day for quarterbacks when both were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Marino, the most prolific passer in NFL history, and Young, whose accuracy and speed made him one of football's most versatile QBs, were joined by Bennie Friedman, an early-era quarterback, and Fritz Pollard.

Each received at least 80 percent of the votes from the panel of sports writers and broadcasters. Friedman and Pollard were nominated by the senior committee and chosen by the full panel.

Induction ceremonies will be Aug. 7 in Canton, Ohio. "It's an incredible honor," Marino said. "It's humbling to think of growing up wanting to be a professional football player."

"Let's overrun Canton with Dolphins fans. I invite you all to Canton and to have some fun."

When Marino left the Miami Dolphins after the 1999 season, he led the NFL with 4,967 completions, 8,358 passes, 61,361 yards and 200 touchdowns. His record of 48 TD passes in a season was broken this season by Peyton Manning.

Although he never won a Super Bowl, Marino was the 1994 league MVP, made three All-Pro teams and nine Pro Bowls. When he retired, he owned 21 NFL marks, including most seasons with 3,000 yards or more passing (13); most yards passing in one season (5,084 in '84, the only year



Former Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino, left, and San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young, right, were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday.



AP photos

he won a conference championship; and most games with 300 yards or more passing (63).

Young, the first modern-era left-handed quarterback elected, won the 1995 Super Bowl with San Francisco and was the league's most valuable player in 1992 and '94. A clever runner with a strong arm and great field vision, Young made seven Pro Bowls and was a three-time All-Pro. He held the highest passer rating in league history (96.8) when he retired in '99. He also set the highest season rating of 112.8, which Manning also broke this season.

"Not many Hall of Famers come out of Greenwich, Conn.," Young said with a chuckle. "I took a unique road, starting with being left-handed. I had a college coach, LaVell Edwards, who took a chance on a wild, crazy left-handed running quarterback from Connecticut."

Pollard not only was the first black head coach in the NFL, in 1921, but a superb player, too. A running back, he led the Akron Pros to the fledgling league's

1920 championship with an undefeated record.

He later organized the Chicago Brown Bombers, an independent team of black players that barnstormed the country from 1927-33.

Friedman played for four teams from 1927-34 and was one of the early NFL's great quarterbacks. A contemporary of Red Grange, he also was a strong runner at the box office. Giants owner Tim Mara purchased the Detroit Wolverines, for whom Friedman played in 1928, not only to get him in New York's lineup but to fill the stands.

"We both appreciate and honor the people who played in another era," Young said, speaking for Marino, as well. "You're talking about having a passion for the game. We're here on the backs of so many other players."

"This is important Fritz Pollard and what he meant for the game. There's a foundation there we are able to join arms with."

Michael Irvin and Harry Carson, the other two finalists, did not get the required votes for induction.



Courtesy Willow Grove Air Reserve Station

Maj. James Devere of the Air Force Reserve's 913th Airlift Wing speaks with Maj. Frank Fraley, Philadelphia Eagles center, during last summer's unveiling of new Eagles logos on the wing's C-130E tails.

Wings showing true colors for big game

By LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Members of the Air Force Reserve's 913th Airlift Wing have sworn to defend all of America, but this weekend they are rooting against those New England states.

One look at the suburban Philadelphia unit's C-130E aircraft shows why: Embellished on each plane just beneath Old Glory sits the Philadelphia Eagles logo, showing that Eagles' green is second in their hearts only to the red, white and blue.

Of course, some true patriots from Westover Air Reserve Base near Springfield, Mass., would never support that color scheme. The planes of the 439th Airlift Wing there have only red, white and blue additions on them, both in the flag and in their beloved New England Patriots logo.

While the two units share a common bond, there was no agreement on how a successful mission in this Super Bowl would end.

Several members of Willow Grove Air Reserve Station's 913th watched regular-season Eagles victories during early morning support shifts in Kuwait, while about 15 of the Westover wing's 42nd Aerial Port Squadron who deployed to Afghanistan last week are rooting for a second straight world championship from the other side of the globe.

"The thing I'll really miss is watching the game at home, because I'd usually be the one having a big party," Staff Sgt. Dan Reeve, a Massachusetts native and lifelong Patriots fan, said Thursday. "But they promised us we would be able to watch the game on our Monday morning shifts."

"I've brought a big Patriots flag, and we'll be cheering them on from here."

Reeve said his unit shipped out just hours after the Patriots AFC championship game was over, so the Steelers, so he didn't have time to call and ridicule his Pittsburgh friends before leaving the country. "I hate the Steelers and all the other members of the 42nd do have fellow reservists Tech Sgt. Kathy Busch, a loyal Steelers fan, to ridicule."

"They have been riding me since the day we got here," Busch said, laughing. "I'm a die-hard Steelers fan, but I do love the Patriots, too, so I'll be rooting for them. But even if I do, they'll still give me grief."

Master Sgt. William Benedetti and George Rummel of the 913th said they put up with a fair amount of ridicule, too. When they deployed to Kuwait, it was with other reservists and active duty units from all over the country.

"There were plenty of people who hated the Eagles as much as we loved them," Benedetti said. "But when we got together to watch a game, we had some guys who could give an E-A-G-E-E-S cheer that just about cleared the room."

Both men primarily worked early morning shifts; Benedetti said he usually caught the first quarter of the Sunday contest before he left for work, and Rummel said he usually finished up in time for the second half.

"I used to be a Giants fan before I started with (the 913th)," Rummel said. "But I showed up to one training day with a New York Giants shirt on, and they went on me all day. Eventually, they converted me into an Eagles fan."

This year, Super Bowl Sunday is a training day for the 913th, and officers have already promised to let everyone go well before kickoff. Both Benedetti and Rummel said they'll enjoy a game with their families, something they couldn't do during the regular season.

"The deployed members of the 42nd Aerial Squadron won't see their families again for four months, but another New England win will help ease some of that homesick feeling."

E-mail: Leo.Shane.iii@af.mil



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SUPER BOWL XXXIX, ALLTEL STADIUM, JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Kickoff 12:30 a.m. CET Monday - AFN-Atlantic, Pacific, Sports, Radio

Common sense approaches

Belichick and Reid have built teams using same philosophy: Win as team

By Dave Goldberg

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Andy Reid and Bill Belichick have almost nothing in common. And yet Andy Reid and Bill Belichick have almost everything in common.

When Reid's Philadelphia Eagles and Belichick's New England Patriots meet in Sunday's Super Bowl, the similarities will be much more important: Both teams are as well constructed and well meshed as possible in an era when free agency and the salary cap force annual changes.

It's all in the team philosophy, a concept easily preached, less easily followed.

"We understand that no one guy on the team is bigger than anyone else," Corey Simon of the Eagles said this week, a couple of hours before New England's Deion Branch said: "No one cares about individual glory. We're a team, not a collection of individuals."

That applies even to players who don't fit the mold, like Corey Dillon of the Patriots, a maldisciplined in Cincinnati who has thrived in New England, and the Eagles' Terrell Owens, who on Tuesday declared he will play Sunday after being out since Dec. 19 with a severe ankle injury.

Owens is a showboat who calls attention to himself even when he's only prancing on the sideline. But he wanted to leave a declining team in San Francisco because he said to win, which is what the Eagles do: 56-25 in the past five years.

In one way, Owens' injury demonstrates the team concept preached by both coaches.

The Eagles won both their playoff games without Owens, and the Patriots won the second half of the season without their starting cornerbacks, using undrafted rookie Randall Gay and second-year man Asante Samuel as replacements and wide receiver Terrell Davis. Belichick was rewarded for his faith when Brown had three interceptions.

Again, the team approach is working in New England — and Philadelphia.

"T.O. is a piece of the puzzle, not the entire puzzle," Simon said.

That stars can be interchangeable parts isn't an accident with these teams. In 2000, Brown, who caught 281 passes between 2000-2002, was working out at defensive back in training camp in preparation for the very kind of emergency in the secondary that developed. Reid acknowledges he wouldn't hesitate to use a star out of position.

"We just were lucky enough not to have that number of injuries in the same spot," he said. If the outcomes are similar, the backgrounds of the two Super Bowl coaches are polar opposites.

Belichick, son of a career assistant coach in New England, etc. He attended the exclusive Phillips Andover Academy (the alma mater of, among others, the late baseball Commissioner Bart Gammit, Humphrey Bogart, Dr. Benjamin Spock and President John F. Kennedy). It was not on to academically challenging Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where he was a 160-pound center/right end.

West of Connecticut, a member of the Glendale Junior College Hall of Fame and an offensive lineman at BYU on teams quarterbacked by Jim McMahon. The last time he was in the NFL was in 1986 and 1990 seasons. At 38, he was head coach of the Cleveland Browns, where he was just 37-45 in four years.

Belichick, who was breaking down film of NFL games and opponents before he was a technician, entered the NFL as a special assistant coach for Detroit in 1975 at age 23.

At 31, he was defensive coordinator of the New York Giants and won Super Bowl rings with them in the 1986 and 1990 seasons. At 38, he was head coach of the Cleveland Browns, where he was just 37-45 in four years.



Andy Reid joined Mike Holmgren's Packers' staff in 1992 and won a Super Bowl in 1997.

Andy Reid coaching record

Regular Season					
Year	Team	W	L	T	Pct
1990	Philadelphia	11	5	0	.688
1991	Philadelphia	10	6	0	.625
2000	Philadelphia	12	4	0	.750
2001	Philadelphia	12	4	0	.750
2002	Philadelphia	10	6	0	.625
2003	Philadelphia	14	2	0	.875
2004	Philadelphia	14	2	0	.875
Total		74	32	0	.697

Bill Belichick coaching record

Regular Season					
Year	Team	W	L	T	Pct
1991	Cleveland	10	6	0	.625
1992	Cleveland	10	6	0	.625
1993	Cleveland	7	9	0	.438
1994	Cleveland	10	6	0	.625
1995	Cleveland	11	5	0	.688
1996	New England	11	5	0	.688
2000	New England	14	2	0	.875
2001	New England	14	2	0	.875
2002	New England	14	2	0	.875
2003	New England	14	2	0	.875
2004	New England	14	2	0	.875
Total		105	40	0	.727

Playoffs

Year	Team	W	L	T	Pct
1991	Cleveland	0	1	0	.000
1992	Cleveland	0	1	0	.000
1993	Cleveland	0	1	0	.000
1994	Cleveland	0	1	0	.000
1995	Cleveland	0	1	0	.000
1996	New England	0	1	0	.000
2000	New England	0	1	0	.000
2001	New England	0	1	0	.000
2002	New England	0	1	0	.000
2003	New England	0	1	0	.000
2004	New England	0	1	0	.000
Total		0	9	0	.000

He was fired after going 5-11 in '95, when owner Art Modell announced in midseason he was moving the franchise to Baltimore.

Reid took the more traditional route, climbing the coaching ladder from college to the pros. He went from BYU to San Francisco State to Northern Arizona to Texas-El Paso to Missouri before landing on Mike Holmgren's coaching staff in Green Bay in 1992.

Belichick already had won two Super Bowls by then.

Reid earned a ring as an assistant with the Packers, who beat the Patriots in 1997, when Belichick was assistant head coach to Bill Parcells.

The biggest differences are the two titles in the last two seasons that Belichick won as a head coach. If the Patriots win Sunday, Belichick will become the first coach to win three Super Bowls in four years.

"Given the circumstances, Bill Belichick has done maybe the best coaching job in the history of the NFL," said Jimmy Johnson, who won titles in Dallas after the 1992 and 1993 seasons but quit before the Cowboys secured their third title in 1995 under Barry Switzer.



Pats coach Bill Belichick was breaking down film of Navy games before he was a teenager.

As recently as five years ago, no one would have even considered such success for Belichick after his contentious four seasons in Cleveland and the circumstances of his hiring in New England.

He had followed Parcells from Foxboro to New York in 1997 with the provision he would become head coach when the man most thought of as his mentor stepped down. Parcells indeed quit as Jets coach after the 1999 season and Belichick got the job.

He quit a day later. Belichick, concerned about the Jets' uncertain ownership, wanted to go to New England. The Jets fought it, and the Parcells-Belichick relationship was severed.

After negotiations that included a court filing, he ended up with the Patriots for a package of draft picks that included a first-rounder in 2000. When Belichick is asked these days to name his football influences, he never mentions Parcells, for whom he worked the better part of two decades.

At the time, the episode seemed curious.

Why, Parcells owner Robert Kraft was often asked, would he give so much for a coach with a losing record who was acknowledged to be the NFL's most cerebral coach, but not much of a motivator.

"I got to know him the first time he was with us and I thought he was the brightest coach I'd ever met," Kraft said. "I knew all the reservations, but I also knew what I was getting. I don't know that I thought we'd win Super Bowls like we are, but I knew we'd have a playoff game each year."

There were similar questions about Reid, who was 5-11 in 1999, his first year in Philadelphia, when few people knew much about him and he was almost monosyllabic in most of his public interviews.

All they really needed to know was he used the second pick in the draft on Donovan McNabb when there was serious pressure on him to take running back Ricky Williams. With McNabb at quarterback, Reid and the Eagles have made five straight playoff appearances, gone to the NFC title game four straight times and finally got to the Super Bowl this year.

"I wanted a coach who was comfortable with himself, not the kind who always has to think he has to prove something to his players and the public," owner Jeffrey Lurie said. "That was Andy. I think the record proves I was right."

How the Patriots and Eagles match up in the Super Bowl:

WHEN THE PATRIOTS HAVE THE BALL
 Under in their area has been a bad week for the Patriots this decade. The Patriots have a stud running back, Corey Dillon (28). Although the Eagles' early handling of Atlanta's top-ranked rushing attack in the NFC title game, they'll be hard-pressed to hold Dillon in check because of what QB Tom Brady (12) can do as a complement. Not that Brady, the MVP of the last two Super Bowls and 8-0 in the playoffs, can be considered anything but a star. But New England will have to minimize Philadelphia's superb secondary by regularly shifting attention at the line. Line forces All-Pro safety Brian Dawkins (20) and the other five starters to line up. Brady will turn to the deepest receiving corps on the line. Terrell Owens (38), Derrick Branch (33), David Givens (37), Terrell Davis (30) and Steve Johnson (31).

Any drive against Pittsburgh for the AFC championship, the Pats can dismantle the best defense in Philadelphia. Philadelphia needs the kind of brilliant performance in the middle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter (56) that it got one last season, weeks, plus a steady pass rush. Jevon Kearse (93) has been dominant in sports and must be more consistent. Hollis Thomas (70), Derrick Burgess (70) and Corey Simon (90) all have taken turns being the main guy up front.

Philly had 47 sacks in the regular season, but the Patriots yielded only 26. If there is no pressure on Brady, thanks to that unheralded offensive line, New England should score plenty of points.

WHEN THE EAGLES HAVE THE BALL
 Unless All-Pro WR Terrell Owens (31) scores a touchdown, neither team has a chance. Owens is a natural scorer. He has a strong ankle and leg injuries, his role in the game will be mostly cheering. That hasn't put a crimp in Philadelphia's offense, but they haven't played the Patriots yet.

Belichick (31) has handled one of the league's best quarterbacks and leaders. He hurt the Eagles with some bad decisions in the game. In the past, but not this season, McNabb has been a disaster. He's been a disaster. Now, though, he faces the mysteries of the New England defense, where he can pop up anywhere at any time.

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While All-Pro OT Richard Seymour (93) might not be a factor, he's hardly been the best. The Patriots' defense, led by Johnson (58), Mike Vrabel (50) and the other five starters, will be hard-pressed to hold Owens in check. The Eagles' defense, led by Johnson (58), Mike Vrabel (50) and the other five starters, will be hard-pressed to hold Owens in check.

McNabb (17) and Warren (44), and the other five starters, will be hard-pressed to hold Owens in check. The Eagles' defense, led by Johnson (58), Mike Vrabel (50) and the other five starters, will be hard-pressed to hold Owens in check.

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SUPER BOWL XXXIX, ALLTEL STADIUM, JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Kickoff 12:30 a.m. CET Monday - AFN-Atlantic, Pacific, Sports Radio

Prime-time players

New England has proven performers in the clutch; Philly's seem untested

By BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — With the game on the line, the New England Patriots hardly lack clutch players — Tom Brady, Adam Vinatieri, Rodney Harrison. With the game on the line, no one is sure if the Philadelphia Eagles have the kind of performers who could lift them past the defending champions in Sunday's Super Bowl.

Though Philly's track record before this year wasn't promising — three straight NFC championship game flops — the Eagles insist past failures were erased when they won the conference title.

They'd better be correct, because the Patriots simply don't get stressed out, particularly in the Super Bowl, which they've won two of the past three seasons.

"We haven't been to the Super Bowl, but we're battle-tested," said All-Pro safety Brian Dawkins, the leader of a defense that includes one starter who has played in the big game — end Jevon Kearse with Tennessee in 2000. "We've been tested in championship games. We feel pressure year after year and we know how to win in those situations."

They hadn't won in crucial situations, though, until beating Atlanta to avoid becoming the first franchise to lose four straight NFC title games. The Patriots have

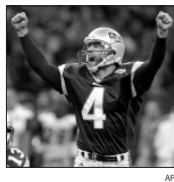
won eight consecutive postseason games with Brady at quarterback and Bill Belichick as coach, and they are seven-point favorites over Philadelphia.

"I don't feel we're at a disadvantage," coach Andy Reid said. "They go in and think they are as good as anybody in the NFL, but they understand they have to prove it every Sunday."

Especially against a team on the verge of being considered a dynasty. Not only are there questions about how the Eagles might perform on such a stage, but there are no questions about how the Patriots will deal with it. They've already successfully displayed their steady nerves and skills under the burning spotlight — twice.



Patriots QB Tom Brady has led two last-minute drives that have resulted in Super Bowl victories.



New England's Adam Vinatieri, 32 years old, has kicked last-second game-winning field goals in two of the past three Super Bowls.

Which presents Philadelphia with yet another challenge: treating the Patriots with too much respect.

If that happens, they're beaten before they take the field at Alltel Stadium, and Vinatieri won't need to match his last-second Super Bowl-winning kicks. Nor will Brady have to stage any late heroics. Matters will be decided much earlier.

McNabb, echoing Reid's statement, basically told Philly fans not to worry.

"It's a slap in the face" to hear such criticism, the Pro Bowl quarterback said. "But they are the champions. And we have made it, we are here in the Super Bowl. No one can take that away from us."

"Can we win this game? How can you ask anybody that?"

No one is asking the Patriots that. If they play true to their history, not only will they match Vince Lombardi's Green Bay Packers as the only team to win nine straight postseason games, but they will do it dramatically.

Brady will complete critical passes to Troy Brown or David Patten. Harrison will rattle a receiver and force a key drop. Tedy Bruschi will create a turnover. Richard Seymour will get a crucial sack.

We've seen it before. Most everyone outside of Philly expects to see it again Sunday.

"The important thing going into these games, and what I've learned, is you need to be well-prepared," Brady said. "When you're prepared, you're confident going into a game, you're calm. You have the answers to the test."

The Eagles answered just about every test this season, but those were like midterms. New England in the Super Bowl is the final — pass or fail.

So are the Eagles up to winning Philly's first championship since 1960, seven years before the Super Bowl existed?

No less an expert than Belichick knows they can if his team isn't careful.

"They are a very complete team," he said. "They led the NFC wire to wire. I don't think you could do much more."

"They have been running out the clock since the end of November waiting to get it over with, because they had everything wrapped up. They came back and played well against Minnesota and shut down Atlanta."

"There's no question that they not only deserve to be here, they've done about as much as you could possibly do this year as a football team."

The final proving ground is Sunday.

Encore: Pats, Eagles have super features

ENCORE, FROM BACK PAGE

More likely, as Brady noted, those teammates will stay.

"Anyone who plays on the Pats understands that our goal is a team goal," he said. "You make sacrifices to fit into a general structure of what the team is trying to accomplish."

What the Patriots are trying to accomplish is to equal the Cowboys' three titles in four seasons (1992, 93 and '95) under more difficult circumstances. Just ask Jimmy Johnson, who coached the first two of those championship teams in Dallas.

"Yeah, I think they are a dynasty since the salary-cap era," Johnson said. "I think the job of the coach is to get that organization and his coaches have done might be the best coaching job ever in the history of the NFL. Because when you get free agency and player movement and you've got to get them ready to play not only every year but every week, a different group, you've got to be a pretty good football coach."

Andy Reid has shown he's a good coach, too, getting the Eagles to four straight NFC title games. They finally got ready to beat the Super Bowl — first time in 24 years — by beating Atlanta last Sunday.

Even if the Eagles lose Sunday, don't expect them to fade away.

They have \$18 million available to spend, and though six starters are unrestricted free agents — Corey Simon, Jerome Mincy, Jermaine Phillips, Matt Bryant, Richard Burgess, Chad Lewis and Ron Ritchie — only losing Trotter would be particularly damaging.

Philly has most of its best players signed to long-term contracts, including Donovan McNabb, Terrell Owens, Jevon Kearse, Brian Dawkins, Lito Sheppard, Michael Lewis and Sheldon Brown.

Kearse was signed as a free agent last year and Owens was acquired in a trade.

Also, the NFL is a mess, with the Eagles far superior to other teams. The Patriots don't have that luxury in the stacked AFC.

Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie styled his organization after such past dynasties as the Cowboys and 49ers. Minus the championships, his franchise is similar to Kraft's.

"We are the two winners teams this decade," Lurie said. "Both invested well over \$500 million in new stadiums. We each hired coaches in an unorthodox fashion — us a non-coordinator, and Bob trading for Bill."

"Both teams are built around franchise quarterbacks. Both are high-character teams. There are a lot of similar value systems for each team. We each place a high value on the quality of people in our organization. And it's a high character, but high intelligence — people who like to think outside the box and people willing to make controversial and unpopular decisions. We both understand that decisions need to be made that sustain the long-term excellence of the franchise."

Most of those decisions have been on target. Even though the Patriots and Eagles will play Sunday, they could have something else in common next year, and the year after.

More Super Bowl appearances.

Game-by-game results



Philadelphia Eagles

Regular season (13-3)

N.Y. Giants	31-17
Minnesota	27-16
at Detroit	30-13
at Chicago	19-9
Bye	
at Carolina	30-8
at Cleveland	34-8
Baltimore	15-10
at Pittsburgh	3-27
at Dallas	49-21
Washington	28-6
at N.Y. Giants	27-6
Green Bay	47-17
at Washington	17-14
Dallas	12-7
at St. Louis	7-20
Cincinnati	10-38

Playoffs (2-0)

Minnesota	27-14
Atlanta	27-10



New England Patriots


Regular season (14-2)


1 Indianapolis	27-24
2 at Arizona	23-12
3 Bye	
4 at Buffalo	31-17
5 Miami	24-10
6 Seattle	30-20
7 N.Y. Jets	15-7
8 at Pittsburgh	20-34
9 at St. Louis	40-22
10 Buffalo	29-6
11 at Kansas City	27-19
12 Baltimore	24-13
13 at Cleveland	42-45
14 Cincinnati	35-28
15 Miami	28-29
16 at N.Y. Jets	23-17
17 San Francisco	23-7

Playoffs (2-0)

Indianapolis	20-3
at Pittsburgh	41-27

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	OT	TO
	114	142	85	96	3	440
Opp.	54	100	41	89	0	284



	1	2	3	4	OT	TOT
	97	179	116	106	0	498
Opp.	58	97	59	76	0	290

SOURCE: NFL

AP

New England Patriots

No. Player	Pos.	Height	Weight	Exp.
1 Adam Vinatieri	QB	6-0	205	10
5 Robbin Dancy	QB	6-2	245	3
8 Josh Miller	WR	6-4	225	10
10 Matt Bryant	K	6-4	225	10
12 Tom Brady	QB	6-4	225	10
13 Don Davis	LB	6-4	250	10
21 Randall Gay	CB	5-11	186	10
22 Rodney Harrison	LB	6-4	250	10
24 Eugene Wilson	DE	6-10	195	10
27 Willie Randolph	DE	6-4	250	10
28 Corey Dillon	RB	6-1	225	10
29 Stephen Delaney	DE	6-4	250	10
30 Jermain Phillips	DE	6-1	210	10
31 Patrick Pott	CB	5-10	152	10
32 Kevin Minter	CB	6-2	245	10
34 Cedric Cobbs	RB	6-0	225	10
35 Rodney Smith	DE	6-4	250	10
37 Rodney Harrison	LB	6-1	220	10
42 Dexter Reid	LB	5-11	201	10
45 Anthony Harris	TE	5-9	194	10
46 Tully Banta-Cain	LB	6-2	250	10
50 Mike Vrabel	LB	6-4	261	10
51 Don Davis	LB	6-4	250	10
52 Ted Johnson	LB	6-4	251	10
53 Don Davis	LB	6-4	250	10
54 Tedy Bruschi	LB	6-1	247	10
55 Rodney Smith	DE	6-4	250	10
58 Matt Chatham	LB	6-4	250	10
59 Rodney Smith	DE	6-4	250	10
61 Stephen Neal	DE	6-4	305	10
63 Joe Vero	DE	6-4	305	10
64 Gene Muzzowski	G-C	6-2	365	10
65 Jon Patten	C	6-2	365	10
67 Daniel Koppen	C	6-2	365	10
68 Christian Fauria	TE	6-4	250	10
72 Matt Light	TE	6-4	305	10
73 Brian Stoltz	OT	6-4	305	10
76 Brian Gorin	TE	6-4	305	10
79 Troy Brown	WR	6-4	250	10
81 Brandon Johnson	WR	5-11	200	10
82 Brandon Johnson	WR	5-11	200	10
83 Deion Branch	WR	5-9	193	10
84 David Patten	WR	5-10	180	10
87 David Givens	WR	6-0	215	10
88 Christian Fauria	TE	6-4	250	10
91 Marquise Hill	DE	6-6	300	10
92 Rodney Smith	DE	6-4	250	10
94 Ty Warren	DE	6-5	300	10
95 Jarvis Green	DE	6-5	300	10
97 Jarvis Green	DE	6-5	300	10
98 Keith Traylor	OT	6-2	340	10
99 Ethan Kelley	OT	6-2	310	10

Philadelphia Eagles

No. Player	Pos.	Height	Weight	Exp.
2 David Akers	K	5-10	200	10
5 Donovan McNabb	QB	6-2	240	10
8 Dick Johnson	QB	6-0	205	10
10 Brian Dawkins	LB	6-1	240	10
11 Jeff Blevins	LB	6-1	223	10
12 Brian Dawkins	LB	6-1	240	10
21 Matt Ware	CB	6-2	210	10
22 Rodney Lewis	CB	6-2	210	10
24 Sheldon Brown	WR	6-0	200	10
25 Donovan McNabb	QB	6-2	240	10
26 Lito Sheppard	CB	6-2	194	10
27 Donovan McNabb	QB	6-2	240	10
30 J.R. Reed	TE	5-11	207	10
31 Dexter Wayne	TE	5-9	177	10
32 Brian Dawkins	LB	6-1	240	10
34 Ron McMillan	RB	5-10	212	10
35 Brian Dawkins	LB	6-1	240	10
46 Quentin Mikell	DE	6-0	236	10
49 Josh Parris	FB	5-8	204	10
50 Mark Simon	LB	6-0	204	10
51 Nate Wayne	TE	6-0	207	10
53 Hugh Douglas	DE	6-2	281	10
54 Brian Dawkins	LB	6-1	240	10
55 Shane Jones	DE	6-1	240	10
57 Larry Jones	DE	6-1	240	10
57 Keith Adams	LB	5-11	223	10
59 Larry Jones	DE	6-1	240	10
59 Mike Labiano	LB	6-0	241	10
63 Rodney Lewis	G	6-2	300	10
65 Jamaal Green	DE	6-2	272	10
66 Brian Dawkins	LB	6-1	240	10
68 Steve Scellio	G	6-5	325	10
69 Jon Patten	C	6-2	365	10
71 Jeremy Maury	T	6-4	325	10
72 Brian Dawkins	LB	6-1	240	10
76 Alonzo Ehirim	C	6-4	312	10
77 Brian Dawkins	LB	6-1	240	10
78 Hollis Thomas	DT	6-0	306	10
80 Brian Dawkins	LB	6-1	240	10
80 Billy McMillen	WR	6-4	210	10
82 Terrell Owens	WR	6-2	210	10
82 L.J. Smith	TE	6-2	280	10
84 Freddie Mitchell	WR	5-11	195	10
85 Jeff Thomas	TE	6-5	255	10
86 Brian Dawkins	LB	6-1	240	10
86 Mike Brumfield	DE	6-4	245	10
87 Corey Smith	DE	6-4	245	10
91 Sam Rayburn	DT	6-3	303	10
92 Jevon Kearse	DE	6-4	280	10
95 Jerome McDougle	DE	6-2	264	10
96 Paul Crumrine	DT	6-4	320	10
97 Darwin Walker	DT	6-3	294	10

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A malcontent in Cincy, Dillon's well-adjusted in New England

BY JIMMY GOLEN

The Associated Press

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — He heard himself called a selfish player, a malcontent, a bad teammate. What really got to Corey Dillon was that for the first seven years of his career he never heard anyone call him a winner.

"For years, I really lost hope," the New England Patriots running back said as he prepared to play the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl. "I really thought I'd never get to this stage, but I just kept pressing ... I love going to work and working hard to try to help this organization win."

Dillon had never been in the playoffs before this year, sloping through in Cincinnati, growing dissatisfied with losing and the team's increasing dependence on him to carry the offense. He ran for a then-record 278 yards in a game in 2000, and he had more than 1,100 yards in each of his first six seasons.

But in 2003, his last year in Cincinnati, he injured his groin and grumbled about becoming part of the "Bungles" legacy of losing. He wanted out, and by that time the Bengals were happy to get rid of him. It was almost unfair when the defending Super Bowl champs got Dillon for a second-round draft pick on the Massachusetts holiday called Patriots Day.

Antwain Smith was a steady but unspectacular running back in the league's championship teams, and there was no doubt Dillon was an upgrade. But would he fit the team-first attitude of the New England locker room, where dissension is discouraged and winning plays with your complaints is just not done?

In vetting Dillon with his former teammates, coaches and friends, the Patriots concluded he wouldn't be a problem at all.

"He was a heck of a player with the Cincinnati Bengals, and he's been really good with us," said Scott Pioli, the Patriots' head of player personnel. "All of us have reputations that precede us. So you sit with a person, man or woman, and find out what and who they are for yourself. We try to avoid judging people before we spend time with them."

Dillon was concerned enough about his reputation that he addressed his new teammates when he arrived, asking them to keep an open mind. They did, and Dillon thrived in a system where no player is the focus of the offense in a locker room where no player is treated like a star.

"I was really pretty judgment on me," Dillon said. "I'm pretty sure that it was in everyone's mind: Let's see what this guy is all about and see if the rumors are true. But just right off the bat, everyone

welcomed me with open arms."

He ran for more than 100 yards in nine of 15 games this year — and never for fewer than 79. He missed the biggest game of the regular season, at Pittsburgh, with a thigh injury. Without him, New England ran for 5 yards on six carries and lost to the Steelers on Oct. 31, ending its 21-game winning streak and costing it home-field advantage for the AFC title game.

In his playoff debut against the Colts on Jan. 16, Dillon carried 23 times for 144 yards as the Patriots ran Indianapolis out of the postseason, earning him the nickname "Clock-Killin' Dillon."

"You have to hit him. You have to play sound fundamental football" to stop Dillon, Eagles linebacker Jeremiah Trotter said.

"He is a big guy. He is a guy who will run hard and try to run over you, but he can break the big one. You definitely have to have a lot of guys around him with the football." And that opens the door for the passing game.

"He's added a great element to this team," quarterback Tom Brady said. "He brings toughness to the offense just by the way he runs the ball, and he's very excited. You can tell in practice."

Even as he distanced himself from teammates and media in Cincinnati, no one ever questioned Dillon's work ethic or his talent. But he recoiled when asked to be a leader in the locker room, and he began complaining when a groin injury forced him to share the job with Rudi Johnson.

After the last game of his final season there, he threw his pads, spikes and jersey into the stands, then cleaned out his locker.

His teammates criticized him, and the Bengals had no choice but to trade him.

Dillon acknowledged he brought to New England "that stigma of being a bad guy in the locker room and being selfish." But he has maintained he was only worn down by year after year of losing.

"I think the thing that irritated me the most was when they said that I was a cancer to the team. That's the kind of ruffled me a little bit," Dillon said. "For a guy that said, 'I was a cancer to the team,' I was surprised that they didn't cut me."

Sunday, Dillon has already shed his image as a malcontent. Should the Patriots win, he will have a new reputation.

"I like to compete and win," he said. "That's how I was brought up from Pop Warner. I wanted to win that bad. At times my behavior may have been aggressive, but I was [angry]. I wanted to win. Now I'm getting an opportunity to."



In his first season with the New England Patriots, Corey Dillon (28) broke Curtis Martin's franchise record for rushing yards in a season, set in 1995.

Patriot missile

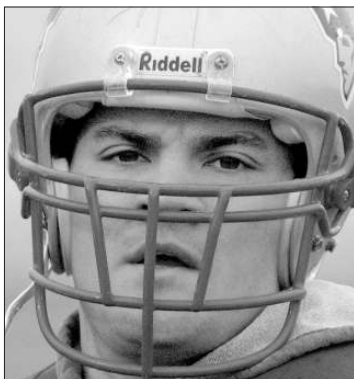
Corey Dillon's career rushing statistics in the NFL:

Year Team	Gms.	Yards	Avg.	TDs
2004 N.E.	15	1,635	4.7	12
2003 Cin.	13	541	3.9	2
2002 Cin.	16	1,311	4.2	7
2001 Cin.	16	1,315	3.9	10
2000 Cin.	16	1,435	4.6	7
1999 Cin.	15	1,200	4.6	5
1998 Cin.	15	1,130	4.3	4
1997 Cin.	16	1,129	4.8	10
Totals	122	9,696	4.4	57

for seven years, went out and put his heart and soul on that field, and at the end of the day be looked upon as the reason why we weren't successful ... that rubbed me the wrong way."

Sunday, Dillon has already shed his image as a malcontent. Should the Patriots win, he will have a new reputation.

"I like to compete and win," he said. "That's how I was brought up from Pop Warner. I wanted to win that bad. At times my behavior may have been aggressive, but I was [angry]. I wanted to win. Now I'm getting an opportunity to."



Patriots coach Bill Belichick said of middle linebacker Tedy Bruschi (above), "He just has a great sense of how to play football."

The face of the Patriots

BY HANK GOLA
New York Daily News

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The New England Patriots think of themselves as a team, but if there is one individual who personifies that team, it is middle linebacker Tedy Bruschi.

Bruschi never has been to a Pro Bowl in nine seasons in New England, but this is his fourth Super Bowl and third season as defensive captain.

He is one of many Patriots who does everything well. And he is one subject that Bill Belichick has no problem talking about.

"It's huge," he said of Bruschi's presence in the middle of the defense. "Bruschi is a great player to coach. He's got great versatility, a very high level of energy and enthusiasm that he brings to the team. He's a smart player. He instinctively seems to do everything right in the right situation."

"He's a guy you want on your special teams and he's involved in a lot of situations defensively from subdefense to goal line and all the things in between."

Bruschi never comes up in a discussion of great middle linebackers. He's not Ray Lewis. But Bruschi fits Belichick's blueprint for versatility.

The coach recalled when Bruschi was put in unfamiliar situations.

for the big hit. He just has a great sense of how to play football."

"Obviously, Tedy is that focus point for us," linebacker Mike Vrabel said. "He's the defensive captain, he calls the signals and makes lot of huge plays. Every week, it's a pick, a fumble ... he's going to do something."

Bruschi is not one of the five Patriots heading to the Pro Bowl (two are special teamers), along with 10 Eagles. Asked if he cared, he said, "Look at me. Do I look like I care?"

"Our identity," he said, "is the 'word team.'"

When Bruschi was told he is the personification of that team, he blushed.

"I think that's the highest compliment you can give me," he said. "Because I'm just being who I am and who I was raised to be, a team player. I'm not looking for the spotlight, just looking for how to win."

"We sort of look for guys who can do more than just one thing. Vrabel was a defensive end in college, so was Willie McGinest. To play on this team, you've got to be multi-dimensional because when we're playing out there on Sunday, everything is in our repertoire."

Bruschi was an undersized defensive tackle at Arizona, where he tied Derrick Thomas' career sack record with 52. He was a two-time finalist for the Lombardi Award.

"You look at him and you can't even picture him as a defensive tackle, yet he was one of the best in the country," Belichick said.

But after starting his career on the line (he picked up two sacks in the 1997 Super Bowl) he worked his way into a part-time linebacker spot the next season. By the end of '98, he was a fixture. Now, he's a symbol.

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Westbrook key for Philly offense

Elusive Pro-Bowl running back proves indispensable for Eagles

BY ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — With each fake and every juke, Brian Westbrook leaves defenders grabbing for air and coaches searching for answers.

The New England Patriots will get a first-hand look at the elusive Pro Bowl running back when they play the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

"He's such a great athlete," Patriots safety Eugene Wilson said. "He can run, he can catch ... he's fast. They do a lot of things with him. We have to be ready."

The versatile Westbrook became one of the NFL's best all-around players in his first season as the Eagles' primary running back. He ran for 812 yards and three touchdowns and led all backs with 73 catches for 703 yards and six TDs in just 13 games.

Not bad for a guy considered to have to be more than just a third-down back in the NFL.

"When people put that label on me, I hear it and I keep going," said Westbrook, generously listed at 5-foot-10 and 205 pounds. "But my ambition and my goals are what drive me."

"I think because of my size and where I went to school, people put that tag on me pretty early without even giving me the opportunity to be a feature running back. I think that was wrong. That's what analysts do, that's what people do. For me, I just have to go along my way and prove them wrong."

The speedy Westbrook set an NCAA record with 9,885 all-purpose yards, including 84 TDs in 46 games, for Division I-AA Villanova. A third-round pick in 2002, he has developed into one of the Eagles' most indispensable players.

With Westbrook sidelined with a triceps injury last season, the Eagles couldn't get past the NFC championship game, their third loss in a row in the title game.

When they finally made it to the Super Bowl on this try, All-Pro receiver Terrell Owens was missing but not Westbrook.

"He's a triple threat just like Marshall Faulk was, the blocker, the catcher, the runner," quarterback Donovan McNabb said, comparing Westbrook to St. Louis' running back and past NFL MVP. "He's very intelligent and able to do whatever it takes to win."

If only he were a few inches taller, Westbrook might have been playing in the NBA instead of the NFL. He grew up excelling in football and basketball, but colleges weren't interested in his sports skills because of his size.

"My dreams got shut down early," Westbrook said.

Still, he insists he can beat McNabb in a one-on-one pickup game.

"He's a pretty good player, but he can't take me," said McNabb, who was a seldom-used guard at Syracuse.

On the football field, Westbrook is difficult to defend because he isn't easy to find. Though he spends much of his



PHILADELPHIA INQUIRE/JKT
Philadelphia Eagles' Brian Westbrook has become one of the NFL's best all-around players in his first season as the Eagles' primary running back. His versatility has impressed his teammates and his opponents.

time behind McNabb in the backfield, he is most dangerous when he lines up as a receiver.

Eagles coach Andy Reid sometimes splits Westbrook wide to the right or left, puts him in either slot or lets him go in motion.

The purpose is to create a mismatch, hoping Westbrook is covered by a linebacker or a safety. If McNabb sees a favorable matchup on Westbrook, he quickly gets him the ball. The result usually is a long gain or a score.

"He can play every position on the field, whether it's the widest position in the slot, next to the tackle, as a split back, as a single back, or an I-tailback," offensive coordinator Brad Childress said. "You don't find many people like that. You see many people put there as decoys. He's able to strike from all those positions."

His versatility is what impresses me the most."

Westbrook could even be used as a punt returner. He returned two punts for touchdowns last season, but wasn't used in that role this year because he's such a valuable member of the offense.

Westbrook is more concerned with New England's defense and a linebacking corps that includes Willie McGinest and Tedy Bruce.

"They're very good linebackers. They're very active, they're good tacklers, strong guys and very physical," Westbrook said. "So we have to do a good job of getting our linemen positioned to get on top of their linebackers. That do a good job of shedding blocks and making plays in the backfield."

"They're a very physical team."

They have big guys who want to get right up in your face. For us, we have to be the aggressor."

Westbrook's success should translate into a bigger paycheck next season. He'll be a restricted free agent, meaning the Eagles can match any team's offer.

With Duke Staley in Pittsburgh and Correll Buckhalter missing two of the last three seasons with injuries, the Eagles can't afford to let Westbrook go and certainly have enough money under the salary cap to keep him.

"He has unbelievable athletic talent," Eagles tackle Jon Runyan said. "He is the kind of guy who can change direction and has the speed. His size makes him a smaller target and it sometimes makes it hard to bring him down. His feet aren't planted in the ground much because he's amazing around people. He is dancing."

Eagles' overshadowed defense one of best in league

BY ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Jim Johnson spends countless hours studying game films, dissecting offenses, searching for weaknesses and plotting his attack.

The other defensive mastermind in this Super Bowl — New England's Bill Belichick owns the "genius" label — isn't high-profile and his unit is underrated. But Johnson's knack for confusing quarterbacks and shutting down prolific offenses with his complex schemes.

Brett Favre had his worst game of the season in Philadelphia. Daunte Culpepper struggled in the playoffs against the Eagles. Michael Vick never had a chance in the NFC championship game.

Next up is Tom Brady and the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

Johnson, the Eagles' unpredictable defensive coordinator, is busy cooking up another one of his innovative game plans.

"Coach Johnson has the ability to know

what the offense is doing or what blitz call to make," Eagles linebacker Mark Simoneau said Wednesday. "We come from a lot of different places. We drop a lot of different guys into coverage, so it's confusing for the backs and the offensive line. You have to have guys who can execute the game plan and we have talented players here."

Overshadowed by Donovan McNabb, Terrell Owens and the rest of a high-powered offense, Philadelphia's star-studded defense, which includes four Pro Bowl players, is one of the best in the NFL.

When the games mattered, the Eagles had the stingiest defense in the league, allowing 222 points in the first 15. They finished tied with the Patriots for second-fewest points allowed after the reserves gave up 38 in the meaningless regular-season finale against Cincinnati.

"There's a lot to be concerned about with these guys," said Brady, who has been MVP of two Super Bowls.

"They have playmakers at every position. They can force you to turn the ball

over. They are very explosive on defense and you usually don't hear that."

The addition of defensive end Jevon Kearse almost equaled the impact Owens had on the offense. A disruptive force on the line, Kearse significantly bolstered the pass rush. Johnson utilized Kearse's speed by playing him at both end spots and sometimes at linebacker, confounding quarterbacks and the offensive line.

Philadelphia finished second in the league with 47 sacks, including 7½ from Kearse, one of just five Eagles — and the only defensive starter — who have played in the Super Bowl. The Eagles get a lot of sacks from their secondary and linebackers because Johnson likes to blitz just about any player on any play.

The Patriots are getting ready for Philadelphia's aggressive style, though they're aware Johnson will adjust on the go.

If Brady has time to throw, he's going against a secondary that includes All-Pro free safety Brian Dawkins, Pro Bowl strong safety Michael Lewis, All-Pro cor-

nerback Lito Sheppard and cornerback Sheldon Brown, who probably was Philadelphia's most consistent defensive back. Sheppard and Brown quickly earned respect with a strong performance against Minnesota's Randy Moss. They silenced critics who thought the Eagles would miss five-time Pro Bowl cornerback Troy Vincent and nine-year starter Bobby Taylor.

Middle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter solidified the run defense, which had been Philadelphia's only weakness, when he became a starter midway through the season. Trotter, who began the year playing special teams, was so dominant that he earned his third trip to the Pro Bowl after making just seven starts.

Trotter, along with defensive tackles Corey Simon, Darwin Walker, Hollis Thomas and Sam Rayburn, are the key to stopping New England's Corey Dillon, who ran for 1,635 yards and 12 TDs.

Since 2000, Johnson's second year in Philadelphia, the Eagles are first in the NFL in fewest points allowed, sacks, red-zone percentage and third-down efficiency.

Miller, Rahlves 1-2

BY ANDREW DAMPF
The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — Bode Miller became the first American to win the men's downhill in the Alpine World Ski Championships on Saturday, and teammate Daron Rahlves claimed second in this signature event for an overpowering show by the U.S. team.

Miller, winner of last week-end's super-G gold, confirmed his status as the top all-around skier. The overall World Cup leader was the third skier down the slope, and no one finished within a second of his time of 1 minute, 56.22 seconds until Rahlves, who started No. 21.

The two Americans gave the United States its first 1-2 finish in the world's in any event.

"To be one and two at the world championships for any team is great, but for the U.S. it's phenomenal," Miller said. "It means even more to be on the podium with Daron than to win it alone."

Rahlves was 0.44 seconds behind. Austria's Michael Walchhofer, the 2003 world champion, won the bronze, 0.87 back.

"Daron is in inspirational skier," Miller said. "He's got a lot of heart and a lot of grit, especially at the world championships."

While Bill Johnson won the Olympic downhill in 1984 and Tommy Moe repeated the feat 10 years later in the Lillehammer Games, no American man had captured gold in the glamour race in the world championships.

Miller ended a strong run by Austria, which had won every downhill at the worlds, dating to Hermann Maier's victory in 1999 in Vail, Colo. The worlds are not held during Winter Olympic years.

Strategy played a large part in Miller's victory. By deliberately posting a slow time in Friday's final training, which determined the race's starting order, Miller started early and could attack a clean course while later skiers faced varying conditions.

Miller, who lost a ski in Friday's combined race, mastered the upper part of the Stelvio course and made only a few minor errors on the lower half.

"It worked out exactly the way I hoped," Miller said. "For some guys it wouldn't have been so great, but for me it was perfect."

The five Austrians in the race were among the final elite skiers to start, but only Walchhofer made a serious challenge. He trailed by 0.39 at the third checkpoint, but he lost more time just before the finish.

Lefty's 60 worth share of lead

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Phil Mickelson, playing in the city he long called home, birdied the final five holes Friday to complete an 11-under 60, tying the course record and vaulting into a share of the lead in the FBR Open.

Mickelson, who now lives in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., finished one stroke shy of the PGA Tour record for 18 holes — 59, shared by Al Geiberger, Chip Beck and David Duval. The Masters champion is the 16th player to shoot 60.

Halfway through the 72-hole event, Lefty shared the lead at 9-under 133 with 21-year-old Kevin Na, the youngest player on the PGA Tour.

No progress in NHL talks

NEW YORK — After 13 hours of talks between representatives of the NHL and the players' association over two days, the sides broke off discussions Friday with no plans to meet again.

Though popular opinion held that this was the last chance to save the season, apparently there's still time to make a deal — but only if the NHL can live without a salary cap, or the players' association agrees to accept one. Neither side has shown any willingness to change its position.

The 4½-month lockout reached its 142nd day Friday and has wiped out 775 regular-season games. The remainder of the 1,230-game schedule could be called off within days.

Sports briefs

"Despite several media reports to the contrary, we have no intention of making any further announcement relating to collective bargaining or the status of the season at this time," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said.

Els third back in Heineken

MELBOURNE, Australia — Last year, Ernie Els took an eight-shot lead into the final round of the Heineken Classic and held on — just — for his third straight win at Royal Melbourne. This year, he's three off the lead but still likes his chances.

Els shot a 5-under 66 Saturday to trail third-round leader Nick O'Hern of Australia by three going into Sunday's final round. Only four male golfers, most recently Tiger Woods (Buck Invitational, 2000-2003), have won the same event four times in a row.

"The course is in great shape, it is there for the taking," Els said. "It will be up for it and it will have a chance coming down the last nine."

Davenport, Sharapova in final

TOKYO — Top-ranked Lindsay Davenport beat U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) Saturday to reach the final of the Pan Pacific Open, a tournament she has won four times.

Davenport, the defending champion, will face Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova in Sunday's title match. The second-seeded Russian defeated Shinobu Asagoe of Japan 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) in the other semifinal.

South Korean teen wins

SINGAPORE — South Korea's 18-year-old Song Bo-bee held off Sweden's Charlotta Sorenstam for her first European Tour victory, shooting a 3-over-par 75 to win the Samsung Ladies Masters on Saturday.

Song finished at 10-under 206, one stroke ahead of Sorenstam, who closed with a 71.

U.S. 1-2 in speedskating

MOSCOW — Shani Davis and Chad Hedrick gave the United States a 1-2 overall points finish after the first two men's races in the world allround speedskating championships on Saturday.

Davis led the field with 74.969 points, with Hedrick 0.13 points behind and Sven Kramer of the Netherlands third with 75.917.

Japan's Takahiro Ushiyama was a surprise winner of the men's 500-meter with his personal best 36.28 seconds. Davis was clocked 36.33 seconds for second and Hedrick was third in 36.65.

Hedrick was also second in the men's 5,000, 1:30 seconds behind Norway's Øystein Grødum. Davis was fifth, gaining enough points to claim the overall lead.

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SPORTS

Page 26: Differing coaches preach one concept

Page 28: Dillon's about-face; Bruschi's imprint

Page 29: Westbrook makes Philly's offense go



Super Bowl encore?



Quarterbacks Tom Brady of New England (left) and Donovan McNabb of Philadelphia (right) are under 28 years old, one of many reasons the Patriots and Eagles might revisit the Super Bowl soon.

AP photos

Patriots, Eagles are likely in it for the long haul

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — New England Patriots vs. Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl 2005. And 2006. And 2007.

Don't laugh. Both franchises are built to last, as much as any team can last in the topsy-turvy NFL of the salary-cap, free agency era.

Whether the Eagles win their first NFL championship since 1960 on Sunday, or the Patriots become the second team to win three Super Bowls in four years, both will be favorites to win conference titles next season. There is nothing fluky about either franchise.

"We try to use the same formula we use in business," Patriots owner Robert Kraft said. "And the primary thing is to get good people. And when you get good people who have a long-term commitment and share your vision on how you want to do things, then good things can happen."

Such as dominating the NFL in a period in which parity is rampant and 8-8 teams make the playoffs. Not only has Kraft hired the right people — coach Bill Belichick, vice president of player personnel Scott Pioli — but Belichick and Pioli have brought in players who fit perfectly.

That's hardly luck. Sure, they found Tom Brady in the sixth round of the 2000 draft, but they also held onto Brady by keeping four quarterbacks that season, the only team to do so, Pioli said.

And when Drew Bledsoe got hurt in the second game of 2001, in stepped Brady, who has yet to lose a playoff game.

New England drafts well, particularly after the first round.

Under the current regime, the Pats have also gotten re-

Teams built to last

The top reasons behind the bright futures of the Patriots and Eagles:



Coaching. New England's Bill Belichick (left) and Philadelphia's Andy Reid (right) are among the NFL's top coaches. Belichick has led the Patriots to three Super Bowls in four seasons while Reid has compiled a 64-32 record in six seasons guiding the Eagles.



Finances. The Patriots and Eagles have stayed well under the NFL salary cap. New England ranked in the bottom one-third in payroll this season; Philadelphia enters next season \$18 million under the cap. Each team has built stadiums in the past three years to generate greater revenue.



Attitude. Players on each team are devoted to the team-first philosophy, exemplified by New England's Troy Brown (left). The 12-year veteran who caught 281 passes from 2000-02, played extensively at cornerback this season and finished the regular season with 17 receptions.



Youth. Several of each team's best players, like Philadelphia RB Brian Westbrook (left) and New England QB Tom Brady (right) are young. Westbrook is 25 years old and Brady is 27.



Structure. Eagles owner Jeff Lurie (left) and Patriots owner Robert Kraft (right) have constructed model NFL franchises. Both hired top-notch executives, do not meddle in personnel matters and are deeply committed to winning.



ceiver David Givens, center Dan Koppen, cornerback Asante Samuel and defensive lineman Jarvis Green in the fourth round or lower. In the second round have come starters Matt Light, Deion Branch and Eugene Wilson.

The Patriots search for a specific kind of player in the draft and, especially, in free agency. They always seem to find them: versatile, unselfish and eager to prove themselves.

"The system is a system that a player has to be selfless, have to be extremely competitive because of the very competitive environment, and it takes a lot of discipline," Pioli said. "When you talk about discipline, it's not about how long their hair is, or how much jewelry they wear. We have certain expectations of guys being in the right place at the right time and doing their job a certain way."

That's also where the versatility comes into play. So star receiver Troy Brown can become a nickel back. Linebackers Willie McGinest, Tedy Bruschi and Mike Vrabel can pop up anywhere on the field. Five receivers fit into the passing game, and Brady seems comfortable throwing to any of them.

When Belichick sought a running back to balance the offense, the Patriots traded for Corey Dillon, who was labeled a malcontent in Cincinnati. It turned out Dillon's problem was dealing with all the losing the Bengals do. As a Patriot, he set a team rushing record and could be a key player for the Eagles.

New England is facing the possibility of losing kicker Adam Vinatieri, receiver David Patten and guard Joe Andruzzi as free agents. Add to that list cornerback Ty Law, whose 2005 salary cap hit is a prohibitive \$12.5 million.

SEE ENCORE ON PAGE 27

Marino, Young, Pollard, Friedman elected to Pro Football Hall Page 25